SCS

PRESENTS

NOBUNAGA NO CHEF

CREDITS

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漫画原作
西村ミツル
梶川卓郎

A CHEF OF NOBUNAGA
STORY BY MITSURU NISHIMURA
COMIC BY TAKURO KAJIKAWA

カバーイラスト＝梶川卓郎
カバーデザイン＝名和田耕平デザイン事務所

HOUBUNSHA COMICS 2

HC Houbunsha Comics

信長のシェフ

2

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芳文社

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Nobunaga, who declared war on Ise's Lord Kitabatake, has made his head chef, Ken, accompany the troops. Forced into a desperate battle, Ken receives an order from Nobunaga... "You shall end this war!" Our humble chef from the modern Heisei era will take a warrior... a daimyo, captive!

美味しいコミック、召し上がれ！
HOUBUNSHA COMICS

世界中の美味しいチーズがここにある。本邦初のチーズ漫画！
チーズの時間 全6巻
山口よしのぶ 原作 花形 怜

老舗茶屋の跡取り息子という異色の珈琲バイヤーが大活躍！
珈琲どりーむ 全6巻
ひらまつおさむ 原作 花形 怜

召しませ、旨し茶！ 知られざる日本茶の魅力をぎゅっと凝縮！
茶柱倶楽部 1巻
青木幸子

つまみ無くして酒はなし。簡単アイデアレシピで一杯やろう！
風流つまみ道場 全2巻
ラスウェル細木

造り酒屋の一部を改装した旅館「蔵の宿」の女将・茜が奮闘！
蔵の宿 1～9巻
田名俊信 原作 西ゆうじ

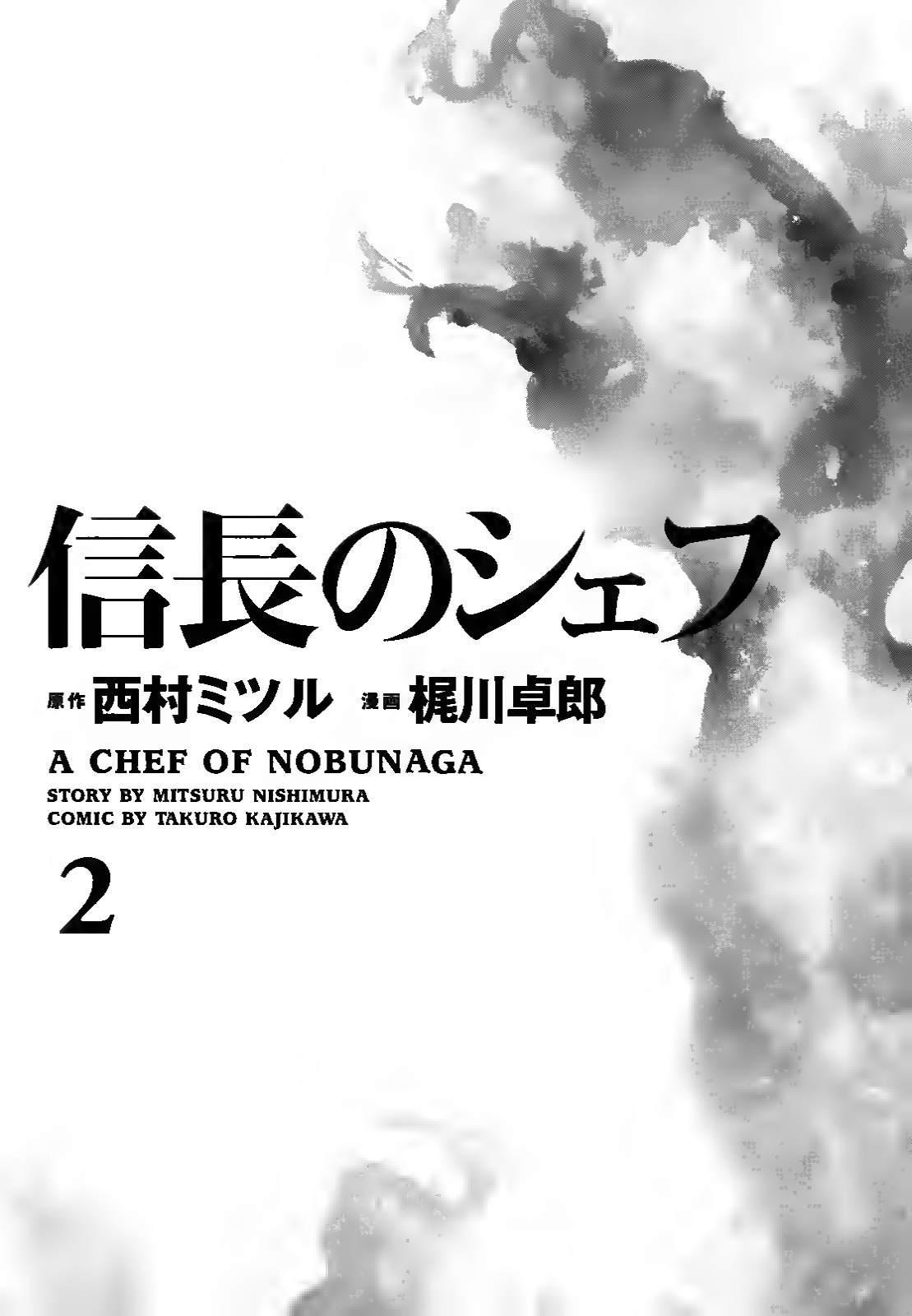
おもてなしの心を受け継ぐ、茜の妹・雪子がホテルウーマンに！
蔵の宿 雪と花と 1～6巻
田名俊信 原作 西ゆうじ

彼岸作家の初ショート連作。風変わりな人々のふしぎな食事！
縁側ごはん 全6巻
河内遙

カフェのスペシャリスト、バリスタ。若き珈琲職人の成長譚！
バリスタ 1～7巻
むろなが供未 原案 花形 怜

インターネットからでもコミックスが購入できます！
http://shukanmanga.jp/

（信長のシェフ）第2巻は週刊漫画TIMESに掲載された作品を収録したものです。



信長のシェフ

原作 西村ミツル　漫画 梶川卓郎

A CHEF OF NOBUNAGA

STORY BY MITSURU NISHIMURA
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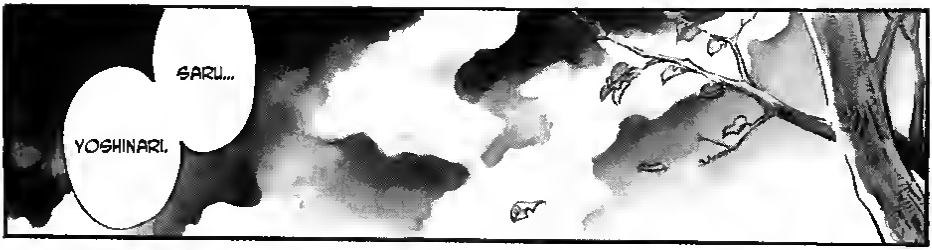
Food from the Warring States Period		

*This story is a work of fiction and does not always accurately reflect history.

A STENCH OF BLOOD SO THICK YOU CAN CHOKE ON IT...
NEVERENDING PILES OF BODIES...
SO THIS...
...IS THE WARRING STATES PERIOD...


SARU...
YOSHINARI.

YES, MY LORD!
I COMMEND YOU FOR TAKING ASAKA CASTLE.

NO, THAT IS NOT THE CASE.

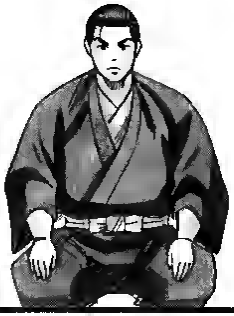
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT OUR ARMY HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO HAVE AN OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE IN THIS WAR...

KAZUMASU'S DETACHMENT ATTACKED HONMARU CASTLE FROM ITS WEAK FLANK, THE MAMUSHI VALLEY...
...BUT THE CASTLE'S DEFENCES WERE BOLSTERED EVEN BY THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WHO HURLED KATANAS, SPEARS, AND ANY KIND OF ROCKS THEY COULD FIND, ROUTING OUR TROOPS.
WE DID NOT EXPECT THEM TO LAST SO LONG, SINCE THEIR PROVISIONS ARE SO SCARCE...
BUT THEY ARE UNEXPECTEDLY TOUGH.
IF THE WAR DRAGS OUT ANY LONGER, THEN MY REGIMENT WILL ALSO EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES...
PEACE OR ALL OUT WAR...
WHICH SHOULD WE CHOOSE?
WHEN YOU CANNOT BREAK THROUGH STURDY DEFENCES, THE BEST THING TO DO IS WITHDRAW.
BUT WHAT POINT IS THERE IN MEANINGLESS NEGOTIATIONS WHERE WE CEDE HALF OF WHAT WE CAME FOR?
SFX: Cut
ス：

SUMMON KEN.

SFX: Silence...

Huh...?
TAKE YOSHINARI'S TROOPS WITH YOU, AND GO PROCURE ALL THE BEST SEAFOOD IN ISE.

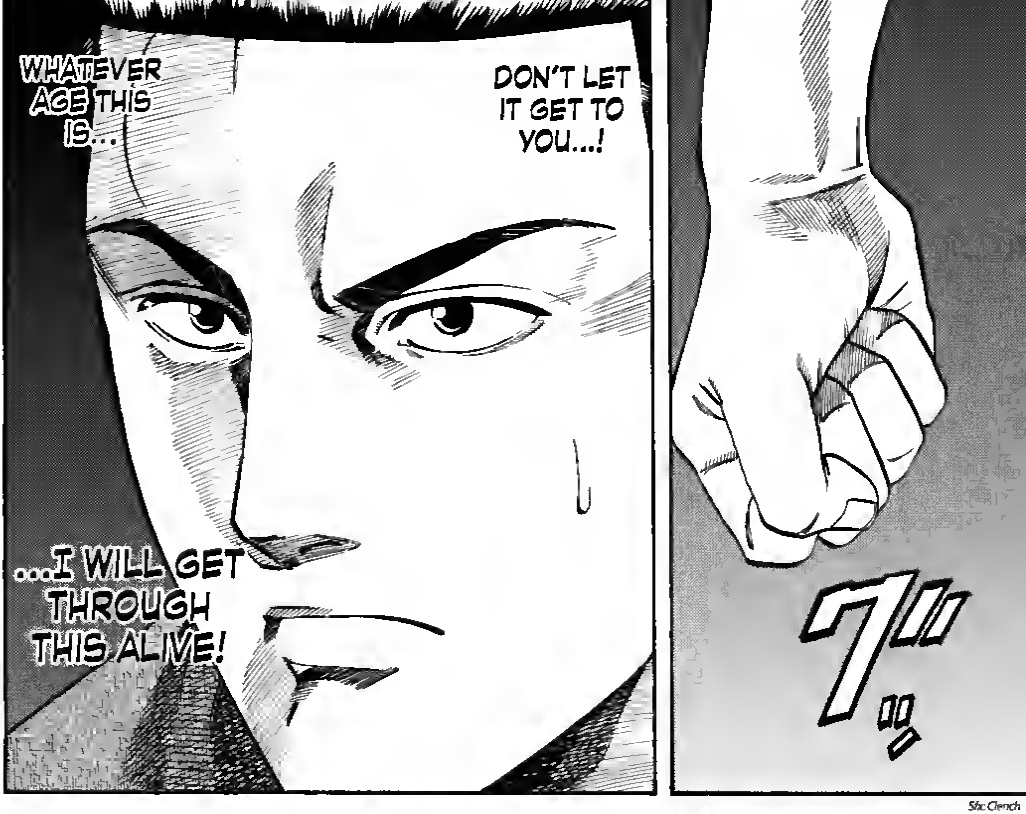


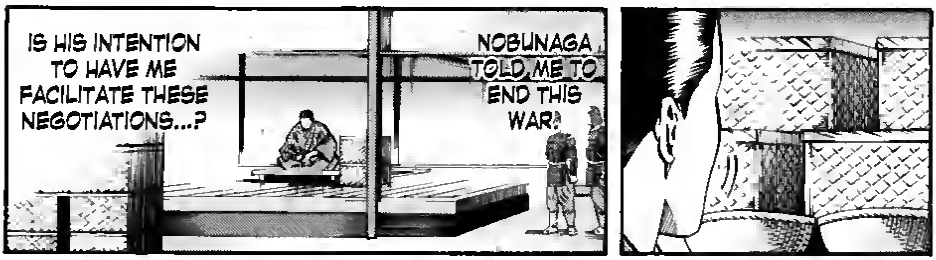
YOU SHALL END THIS WAR!

Chapter 8 Cooking that Bends the Heart

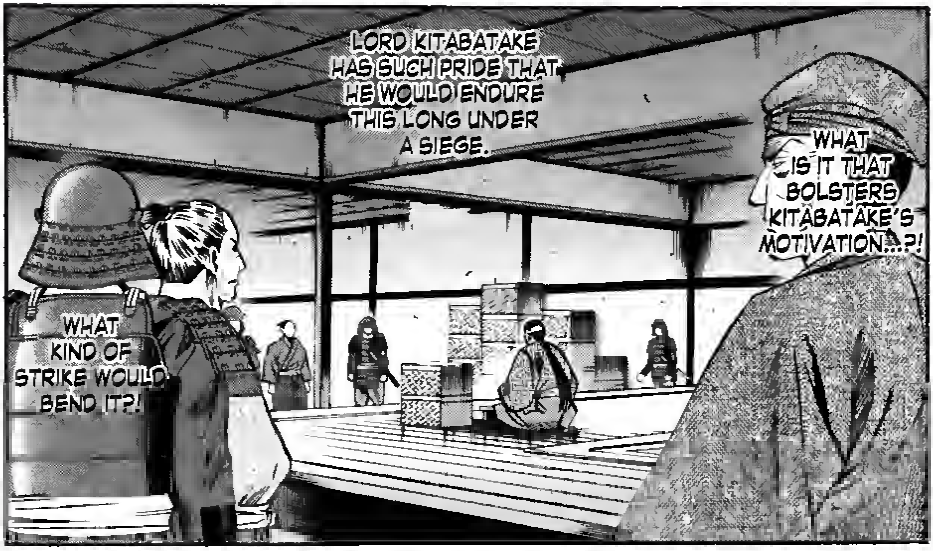
FATHER, HE MIGHT BE INTENDING TO PUT POISON IN THE FOOD...
KITABATAKE TOMOFUSA
HE WANTS USE OF OUR KITCHENS BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS, YOU SAY?!
Head of the Kitabatake Family
KITABATAKE TOMONORI
WHAT COULD HE BE PLOTTING?!
I WOULD NOT PUT SOMETHING SO VILE PAST NOBUNAGA.
USING THE PRETEXT OF PEACE TALKS TO MASSACRE US...

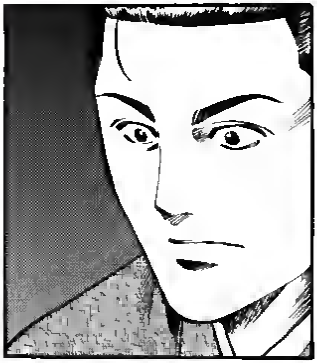
EXCUSE ME WHILE I BORROW THE KITCHENS.
I'M SURROUNDED BY KITABATAKE SOLDIERS...

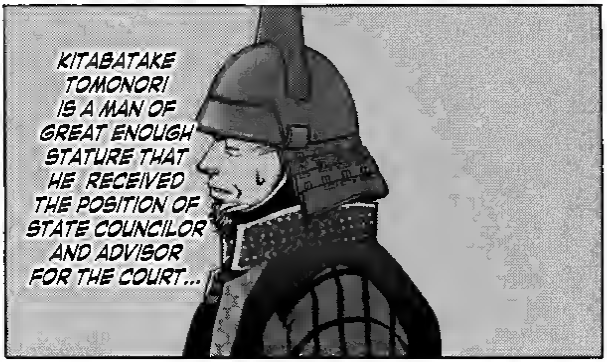

WHATEVER AGE THIS IS...
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU...!
...I WILL GET THROUGH THIS ALIVE!
Sfx: Clench


IS HIS INTENTION TO HAVE ME FACILITATE THESE NEGOTIATIONS...?
NOBUNAGA TOLD ME TO END THIS WAR?

HE SURELY WANTS LORD KITABATAKE TO SURRENDER!
NO. NOBUNAGA ISN'T THE TYPE TO SUE FOR PEACE...!
*SFX Crack


LORD KITABATAKE HAS SUCH PRIDE THAT HE WOULD ENDURE THIS LONG UNDER A SIEGE.
WHAT IS IT THAT BOLSTERS KITABATAKE'S MOTIVATION...?!
WHAT KIND OF STRIKE WOULD BEND IT?!




KITABATAKE TOMONORI IS A MAN OF GREAT ENOUGH STATURE THAT HE RECEIVED THE POSITION OF STATE COUNCILOR AND ADVISOR FOR THE COURT...

STATE COUNCILOR AND ADVISOR FOR THE COURT...

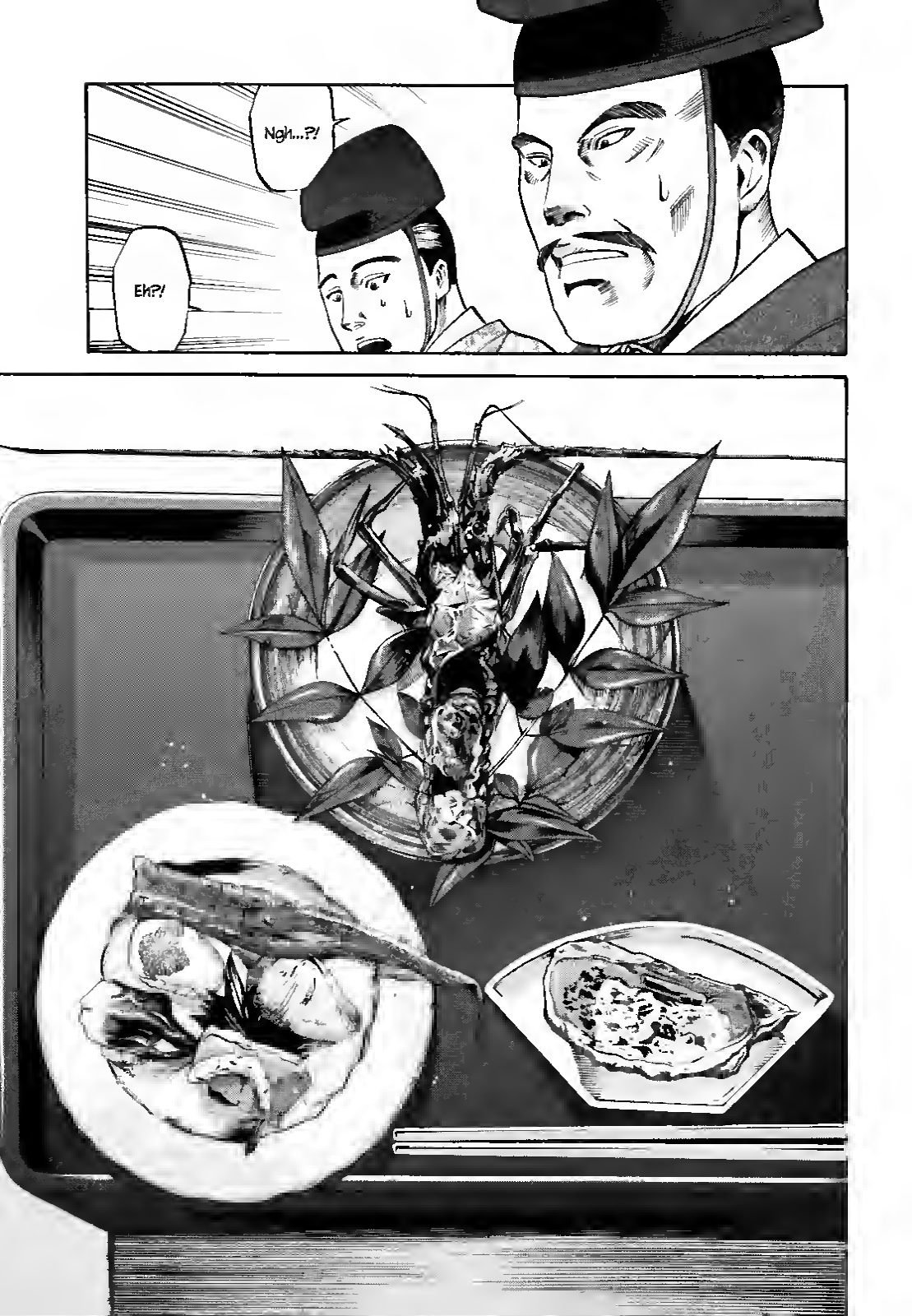
LET US HEAR YOUR INTENTIONS, ODA KAZUSANOSUKE-DONO.
I DO NOT BELIEVE FURTHER STRIFE WOULD BENEFIT EITHER OF US, SHOULD WE CONTINUE THIS WAR...
THEN YOU EVIDENTLY HAVE NOT REALIZED OUR BRAVERY...
...EVEN SHOULD THE WAR CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS, WE WILL NOT SURRENDER!
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS CONFLICT IS SOMETHING THAT *YOU* STARTED, ODA-DONO, BY INVADING ISE.
IF YOU WISH TO STOP FIGHTING, THEN IT IS UP TO *YOU* TO RETREAT.

A SINGLE SENTENCE FROM YOUR MOUTH WILL DECIDE ISE'S FATE...
WHETHER IT SHALL BECOME A PEACEFUL PARADISE OR A SCORCHED DESERT.
I ADVISE YOU TO GIVE THIS QUESTION FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

HE IS JUST A VULGAR AND CRUDE APE!
AS EXPECTED, THIS MAN JUST CAME HERE TO NEGOTIATE WITH NOTHING IN MIND OTHER THAN A SHOW OF POWER...

THE KITABATAKE FAMILY ARE NOBLES WHO EVEN HAVE INFLUENCE WITH THE ASHIKAGA SHOGUNS. WE ARE POWERFUL AND REFINED!
THERE IS NO WAY I WILL ALLOW MYSELF TO BE DEFEATED BY THIS GRACELESS MAN... I CANNOT BE BEATEN BY HIM!

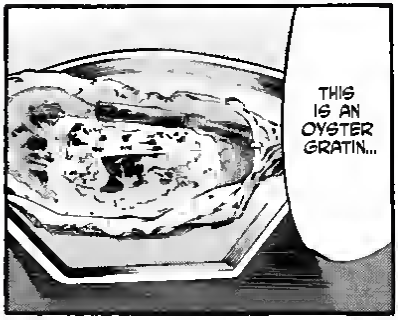
THE MEAL HAS BEEN PREPARED.
YOU THERE, BRING ME THAT FOOD!
I NEVER THOUGHT ANY SUCH THING!
BUT JUST TO PUT YOUR HEART AT EASE, I WILL ALLOW YOU, LORD KITABATAKE, TO DECIDE WHICH DISHES WE SHOULD EAT.
IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING IF YOU THOUGHT THERE WAS POISON IN ANY OF THESE DISHES.

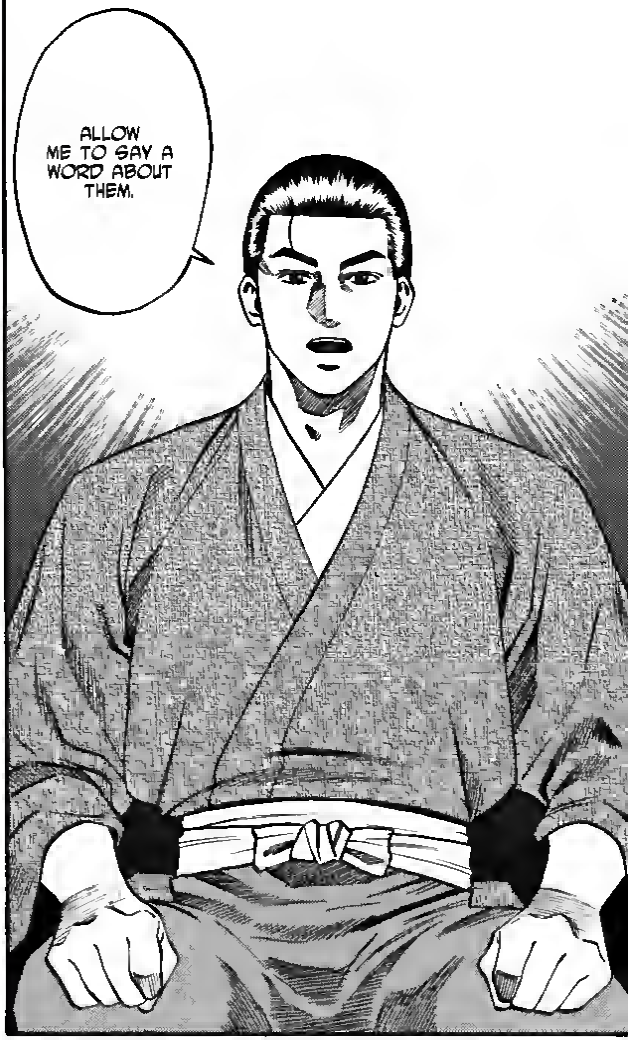

Ngh...?!
Eh?!

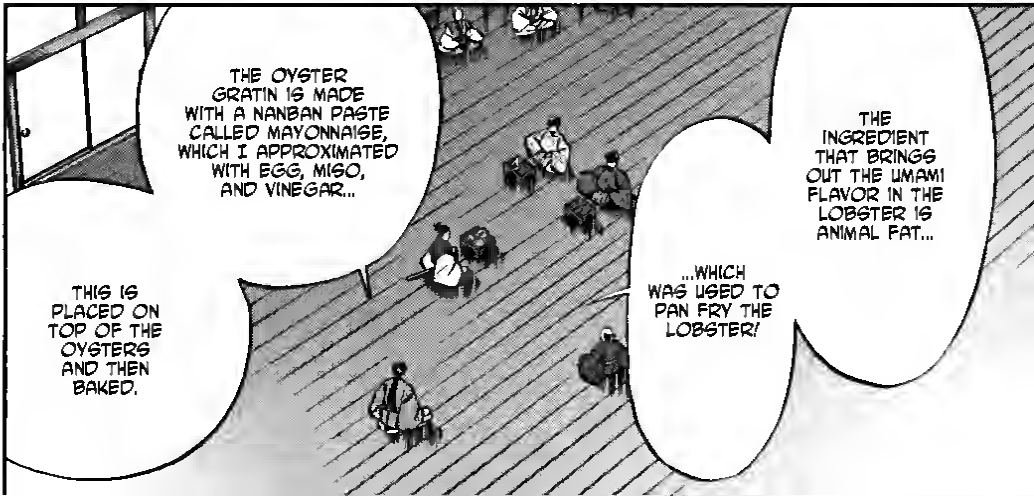
Ske Champ Champ
パク
パク
IT IS BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED.
FATHER... I MUST ADMIT THAT THIS IS A DISH I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
WHAT BOORISH TABLE MANNERS...
パク
Hmph, THESE ARE ISE SPINY SHRIMP FROM MY COASTLINE...
I AM ALREADY BORED OF EATING THEM SO FREQUENTLY!
SFX Champ

THIS UMAMI FLAVOR IS SO RICH, UNLIKE ANYTHING I HAVE EATEN BEFORE...
HOW CAN THIS... BE...?!
Ngwh... WHAT...?
...AND ALSO THIS FISH, WHICH HAS BEEN SLICED OVER RICE...
FATHER, LOOK, THESE OYSTERS...
THE EEL AND ABALONE ARE ALSO EXCEEDINGLY PLEASANT AND GO WELL WITH THE VINEGARISH RICE.
AS WELL AS THIS DELICATELY FLAVORED SOUP AND HOW THEY HAVE ALL BEEN COOKED TO HAVE THIS NICE FRAGRANCE...
YES, MY LORD.
KEN.
PLEASE INTRODUCE THE DISHES.
ALL OF THESE ARE DELICACIES THAT I HAVE NEVER EATEN BEFORE...
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THESE DISHES...?!

*T/N Miso with mustard.





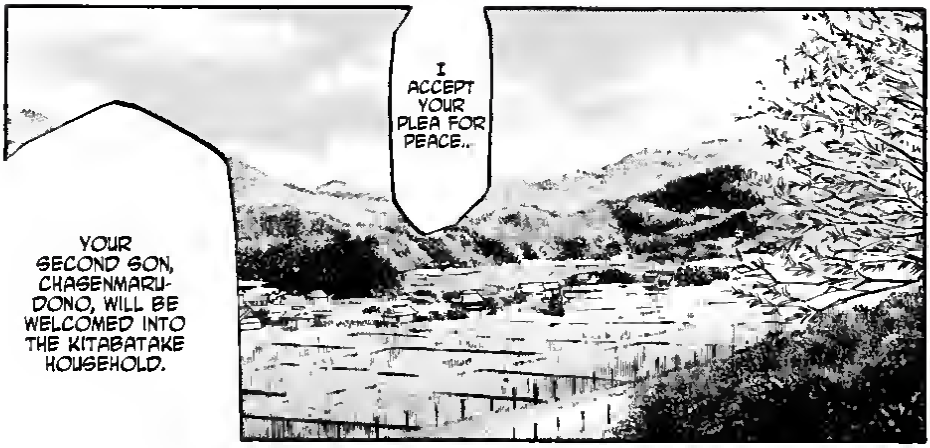


TODAY, I GOT MY HANDS ON SOME GOOD FRESH FISH, SO I MADE NIGIRI SUSHI WITH THE RAW FISH.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FUNAZUSHI*?
SUSHI... IS THAT NOT JUST FERMENTED FISH, EITHER CRUCIAN OR OTHER CARP LEFT TO PICKLE?!
*T/N. Funazushi is the oldest form of sushi, which is prepared by pickling fish in salt
...THESE TERMS...
I DO NOT KNOW...
NIGIRI...?
PAN FRY...
SUSHI WITH RAW FISH WAS ONLY MADE STARTING IN THE 1830S, DURING THE LATE EDO PERIOD.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL YOU DON'T KNOW.
SOME-ONE...
SUMMON MY HEAD CHEF, RIGHT AWAY.
THAT'S ANOTHER 260 YEARS FROM NOW.
A FOOD FROM THE DISTANT FUTURE.

TELL ME WHAT THEY REALLY ARE.
YOU WERE OBSERVING THIS MAN AS HE PREPARED THESE DISHES.
I... I DO NOT KNOW...!
THE BASIC TENETS OF COOKING ARE THE THREE PREPARATION METHODS— ROASTING, BOILING, AND STEAMING.
BUT THIS MAN DID NOT USE ANY OF THOSE WHILE PREPARING THIS FOOD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DO NOT KNOW?!
I CANNOT HELP IT IF I DO NOT KNOW!
AND YET... THE FOOD HE MAKES IS STILL SPLENDID, AS IF HE IS FOLLOWING SOME UNKNOWN TECHNIQUES... SO BEAUTIFUL AND DELICIOUS...
I HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS CUISINE, EVEN IN THE CAPITAL...
HE WAS USING OILS AND OPEN FLAMES.

...PAN FRYING IS A TECHNIQUE FROM CHIN-- FROM MING.
I HAVE HEARD...THAT YOU ARE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE NANBAN LANDS, ODA-SAMA..
PERHAPS THIS IS FROM THERE...?
NO...
ALTHOUGH, IT'S TRUE THAT GRATIN IS A NANBAN COOKING STYLE...
...ANYTHING ABOUT THEM.
DON'T KNOW...
I...
MING...
NANBAN...

SFX: Founder
...THAT EVEN IN TERMS OF CULTURE, I AM INFERIOR TO NOBUNAGA...?
COULD IT BE...
AND OUR MILITARY DIFFERENCE IS OBVIOUS...
SFX: Startle
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ADOPT MY SECOND SON, CHASENMARU, INTO THE KITABATAKE HOUSEHOLD.
TOMO-NORI-DONO...
IN EVERY...
...RESPECT.
I AM INFERIOR TO THIS MAN...



SFX: Wawwah

SFX: Waaaaah

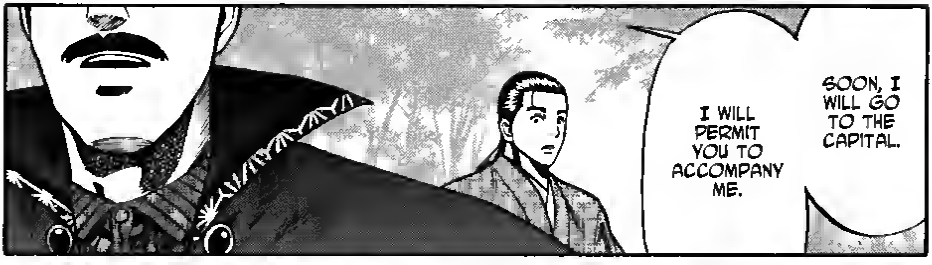
IT IS SAID THAT BENTO WAS THE ORIGIN OF THE LUNCHES THAT PEOPLE BRING WHEN GOING FLOWER WATCHING.

A RUMOR SPREAD THROUGH THE LAND THAT WHEN NOBUNAGA MADE HIS PILGRIMAGE TO THE ISE GRAND SHRINE, THE BENTO THAT HE DISTRIBUTED WAS WONDERFUL.

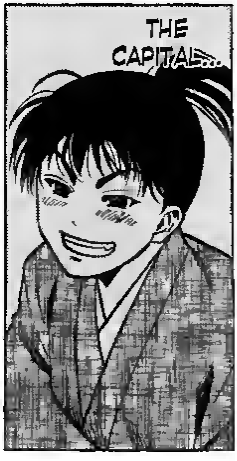
AH... NO, I'M FINE.
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED AFTER SPENDING THE DAY IN THE KITCHENS.
WHAT?
MAY I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
YOU WANT TO KNOW?
WHY DOES SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN THE KAMIS AND BUDDHAS, MAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO THE ISE GRAND SHRINE?

IS THIS MADNESS ITSELF THE ENERGY THAT SUSTAINS HIM...?
SO IF THE KAMIS OR BUDDHAS GOT IN HIS WAY, HE WOULD CUT THEM DOWN...

BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT MY ENEMIES.


SOON, I WILL GO TO THE CAPITAL.
I WILL PERMIT YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME.

YES, SIR!


THE CAPITAL...

Chapter 9 Yoshinari and Nobunaga

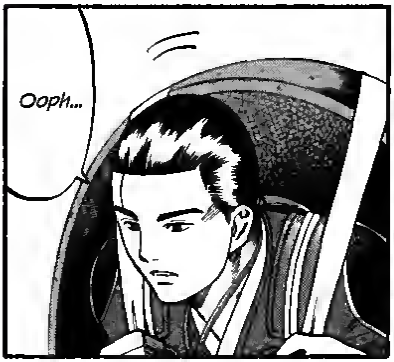
ENJOY THE SEAFOOD RISOTTO.

*Kozukuri Ueno. A location in present day Mie Prefecture, near the city of Tsu

MEANWHILE, I SHALL HEAD TO THE CAPITAL TO MAKE AN ACCOUNT OF RECENT EVENTS TO THE SHOGUN, ASHIKAGA YOSHIAKI.
INDEED.
WHAT?
YOU INTEND TO HAVE THE TROOPS WITHDRAW?
WAIT, MY LORD!
SO GO BACK TO OUR DOMAIN, AND GIVE THE TROOPS AND YOURSELVES SOME TIME OFF.
...
THAT IS CORRECT!
I SHALL ALSO TAKE KEN WITH ME.
DO YOU INTEND TO ENTER THE CAPITAL WITH BUT A HANDFUL OF YOUR MOUNTED GUARDS?

SFX Hahaha

SFX Punchline



HIDE-YOSHI-SAN...
SFX Tink Tink
HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
IT IS NOTHING! I JUST CAME TO GREET YOU!
Huh?
BUT SERI-OUSLY...
YOU ARE ONE CRAFTY GUY.
THE MOUNTED GUARDS ARE ONLY NATURAL...
..TO PROTECT THE LORD WHILE HE PRESENTS HIMSELF AT THE CASTLE...
BUT IT IS UNFAIR THAT *YOU* GET TO GO WITH HIM, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE *NOTHING* TO DO WITH THIS!

HE IS RELYING ON YOU, AND ONLY YOU, FOR SOMETHING THIS TIME.
FOOL! OUR LORD DOES NOT TAKE PEOPLE WITH HIM IF HE DOES NOT HAVE A USE FOR THEM.
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE WANTS ME TO GO WITH HIM EITHER--I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY DEEP MEANING
RELYING...
ON ME?
SFX Thud
YOU HAD BETTER RISK YOUR LIFE, IF NEED BE, TO PROTECT THE LORD...
GOT IT?!

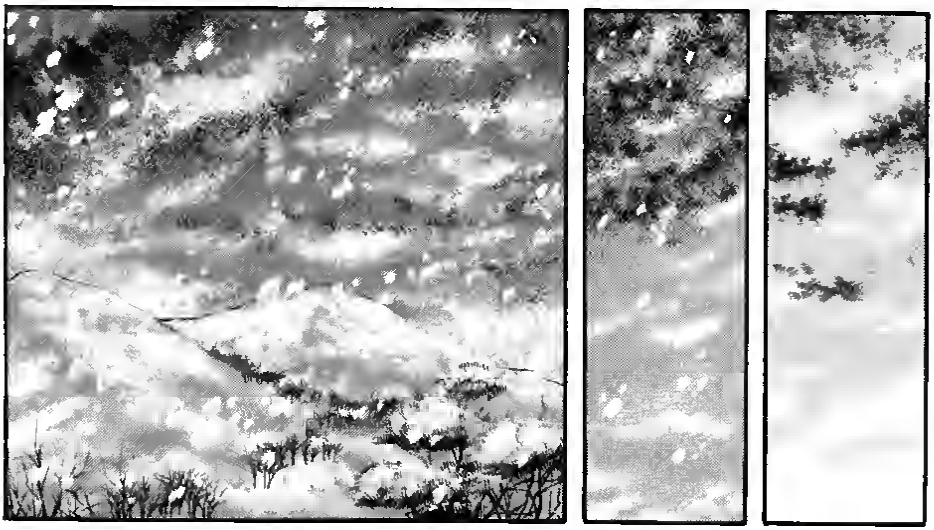
ARE YOU NOT GOING TO MOUNT UP?
SFX Swivel
SFX Whinny

YOSHINARI, JUST SPIT IT OUT.

MY LORD...
SFX Pat
I IMPLORE YOU TO TAKE ME AS WELL.
JUST... WHAT?
ARE YOU DEFYING MY ORDERS?
JUST...
THAT IS NOT MY INTENTION AT ALL!

...AND HAVE SUBJUGATED ALL OF ISE WITHOUT THE SHOGUN'S PERMISSION...
I FEAR THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE INCURRED THE SHOGUN'S WRATH!
THE KITABATAKE FAMILY WERE CLOSE PROTEGES OF THE ASHIKAGA SHOGUN! NOW THAT YOU HAVE OVERTHROWN THE KITABATAKES...
...I IF YOU KNOW...
THE DAY... GROWS COLD.
THE CAPITAL IS TOO DANGER-OUS!
SFX: Grin
I AGREE.

FOLLOW ME.
YOSHI-NARI...
I HAD BEEN INTENDING TO PASS THROUGH CHIGUSA ON MY WAY TO THE CAPITAL, BUT I WILL HAVE TO CHANGE MY ROUTE IF IT IS GOING TO SNOW...



KEN, YOU DOING OKAY?
Ah, YES, SIR. THIS BATTLE SURCOAT YOU LENT ME IS VERY WARM...
THAT IS GOOD...
IT WOULD BE INCONVENIENT IF YOU HAD TO STOP, AFTER ALL.
THIS AREA USED TO BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ROKKAKU CLAN, WHO LOST TO OUR LORD...
WE CANNOT LET ANY HARM COME TO THE LORD...
SO KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU.

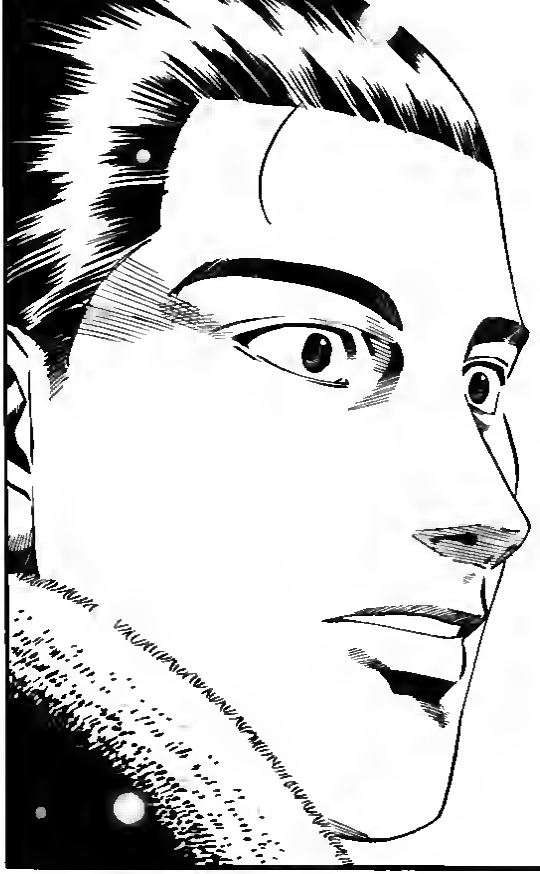
YOSHINARI-SAN, I WAS WONDERING WHAT OUR LORD REPRESENTED TO YOU EXACTLY...
WHY IS A MAN LIKE NOBUNAGA, WHO WAS KNOWN AS A RUTHLESS AUTOCRAT, SO BELOVED BY HIS MEN...?
YOU HAD BETTER RISK YOUR LIFE...
HE HAS NOT CHANGED AT ALL SINCE BACK THEN.
THAT'S RIGHT...
SAVIOR?
I GUESS... HE IS MY SAVIOR.
WELL, LET'S SEE...
THAT DAY... THIRTEEN YEARS AGO NOW...
BUT AS HE ARRIVED, HE LEARNED THAT DOUSAN HAD BEEN KILLED DURING THE BATTLE.
WHEN NOBUNGA'S STEP-FATHER, SAITOU DOUSAN'S SON, YOSHITATSU, ROSE AGAINST DOUSAN IN A COUP D'ÉTAT, NOBUNAGA LED REINFORCEMENTS TO THE BATTLE.
THIRTEEN YEARS EARLIER, IN APRIL OF THE 2ND YEAR OF KOJI (1556).

RETREAT!
NOBUNAGA
At 22 years of age
THEN, IN THE FACE OF NOBUNAGA'S RETREATING ARMY, YOSHITATSU ATTACKED.
IT WAS A MASSACRE.
Six Waaah
I, SENGOKU MATAICHI...
...WILL TAKE THE HEAD OF THE FOOL OF OWARI!
UGH...
YOSHINARI
At 33 years of age
Six Gallop
KEEP OUR LORD SAFE!
LEAVE THIS PLACE TO ME!

WELL, I'LL BE. IT IS A RARE SIGHT TO SEE A LORD WIELDING A SPEAR...
SFX Grab
SFX Slash Slash
HAH!
YAH!
SFX. Thud Thud
UGH....

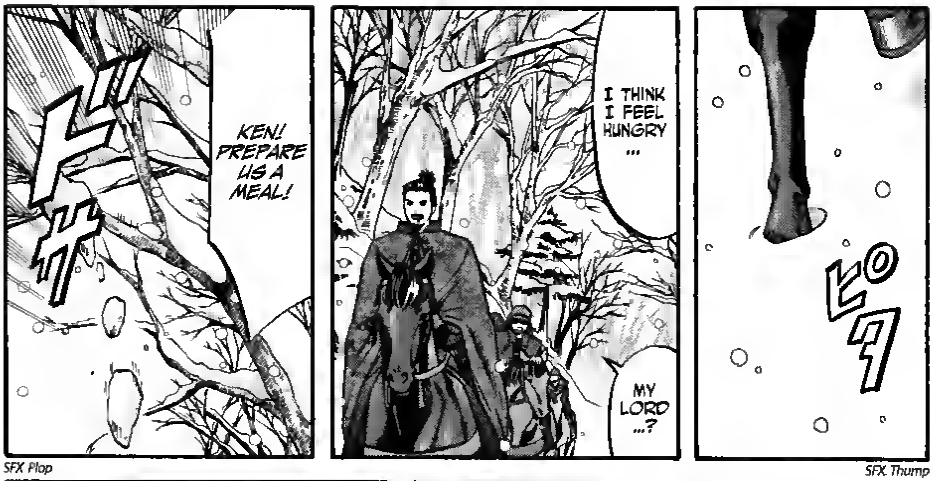
SFX: Kapow
GOOD-BYE.
MY LORD....!
YOSHI-NARI...
FOLLOW ME.
WHY....WHY DID YOU RETURN....?
YOU IDIOT. WHAT USE ARE YOU TO ME IF YOU DIE A DOG'S DEATH OUT HERE?

I WILL SHOW YOU THE WORLD.



BUT THAT IS WHEN I SWORE TO FOLLOW HIM IN *LIFE* AND *DEATH*.

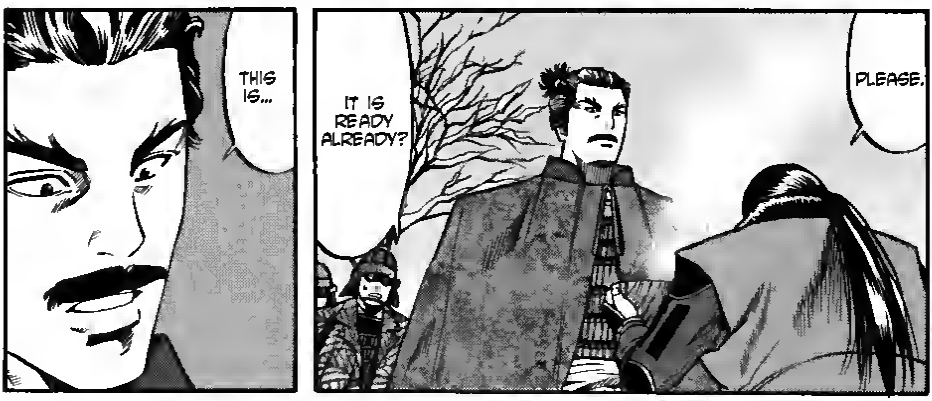
...IS NOT SOMETHING AN ORDINARY MAN LIKE ME CAN COMPREHEND.
THE WORLD REFLECTED IN HIS EYES...



SFX Plop

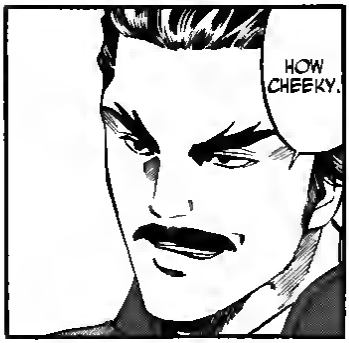
SFX Thump

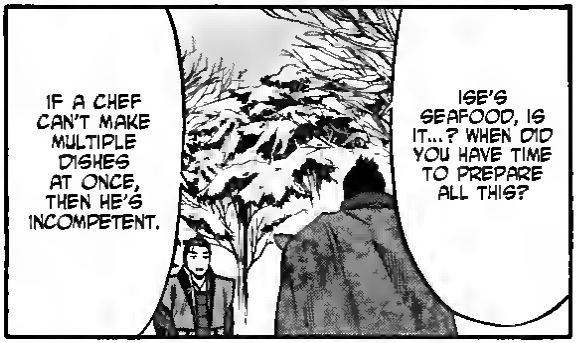
SFX Slosh



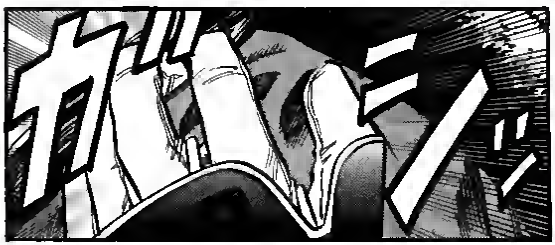
THE STUFFING IS MADE WITH SEA BREAM AND SHRIMP.
I'VE IMPROVED IT A BIT.

SFX: Tssss
SFX: Clank
THIS IS THE YUZUKE YOU MADE ME BEFORE.

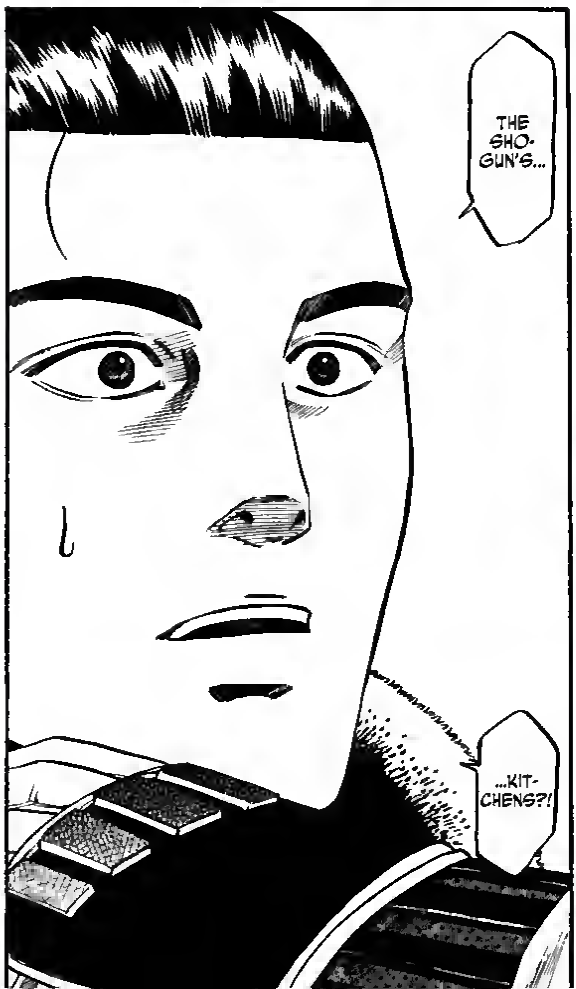

HOW CHEEKY.


IF A CHEF CAN'T MAKE MULTIPLE DISHES AT ONCE, THEN HE'S INCOMPETENT.
ISE'S SEAFOOD, IS IT...? WHEN DID YOU HAVE TIME TO PREPARE ALL THIS?

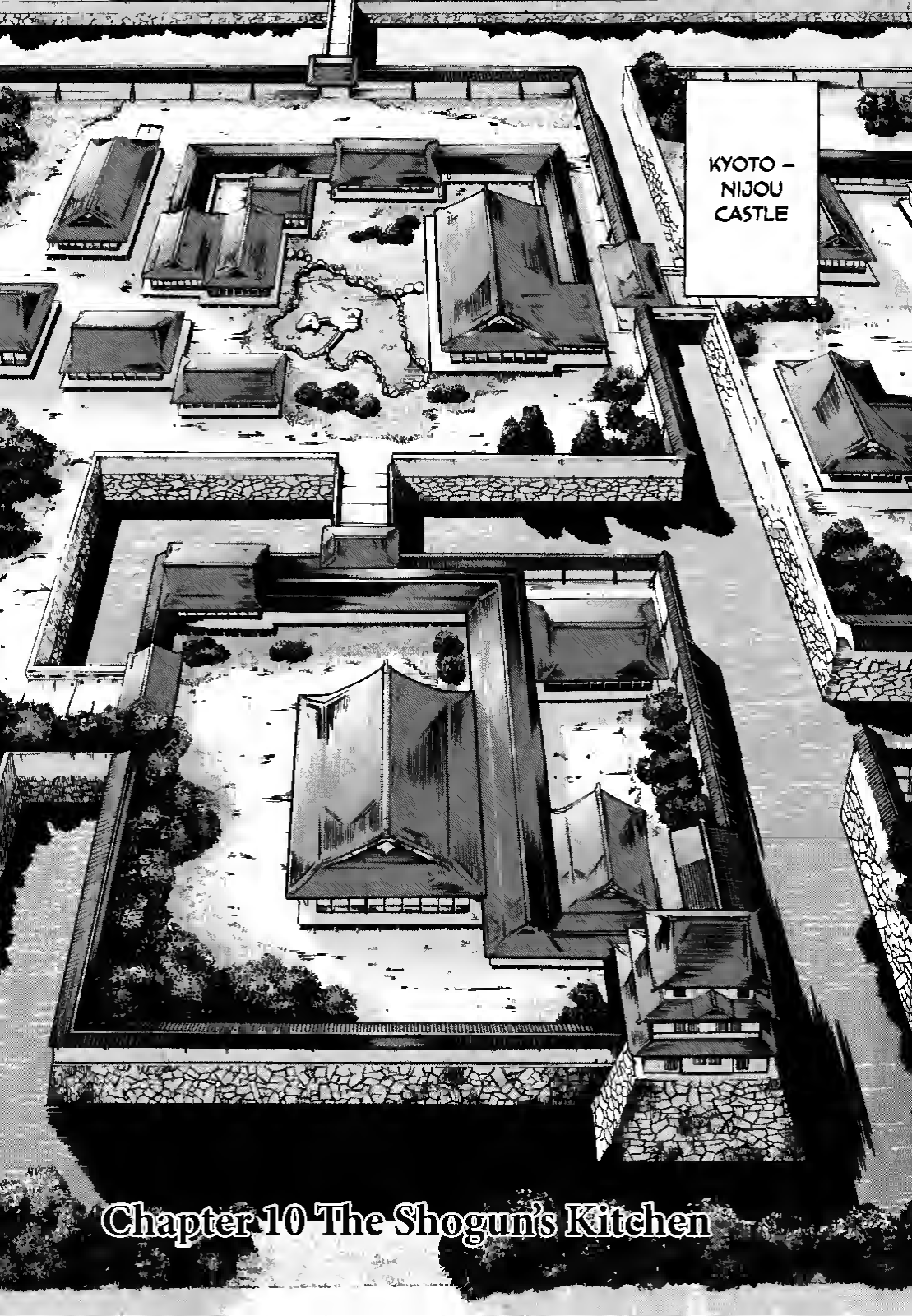
SFX: Munch Munch


SFX: Grab

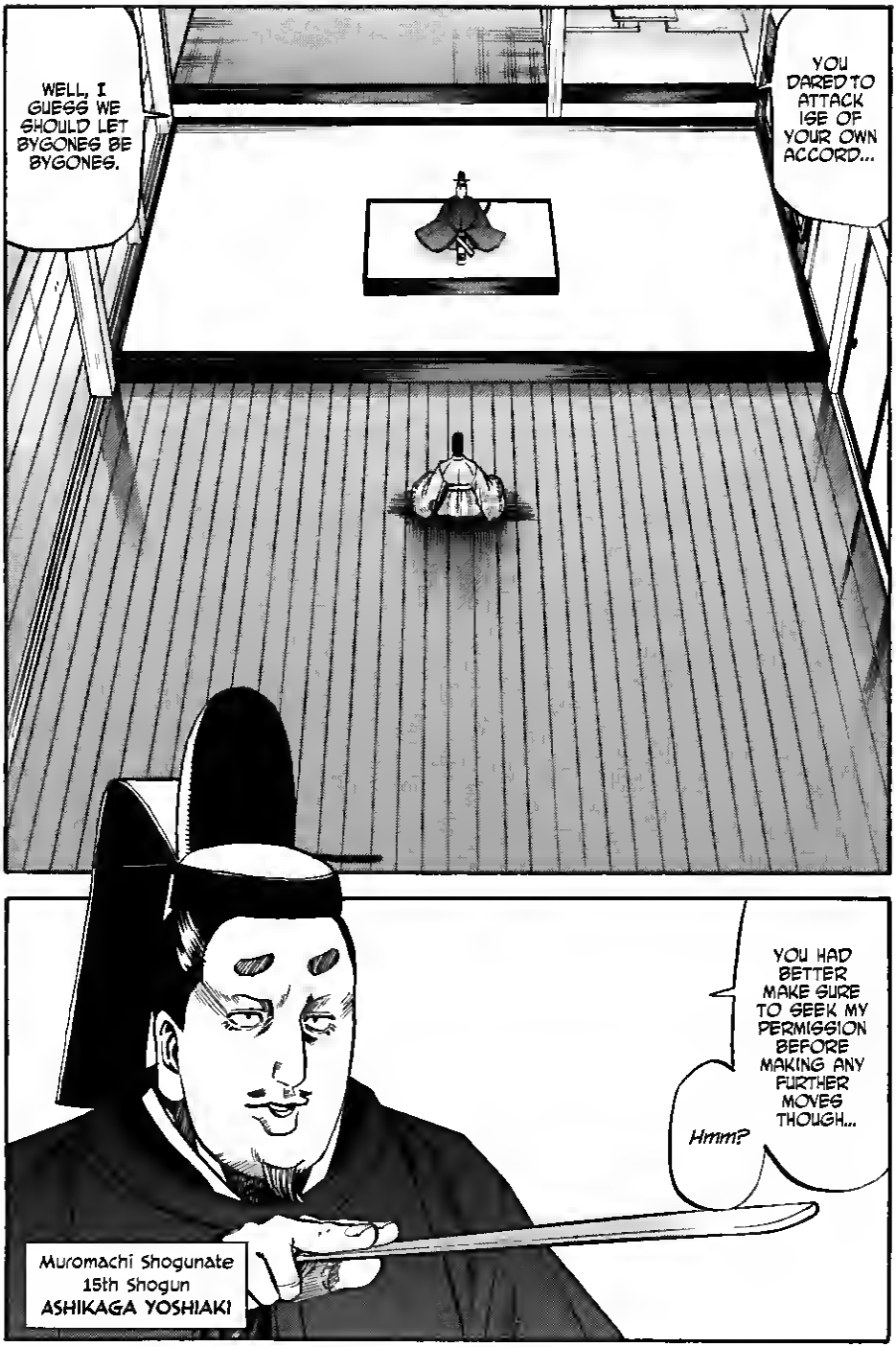
SFX: Aaah


THE SHO-GUN'S...
...KIT-CHENS?!

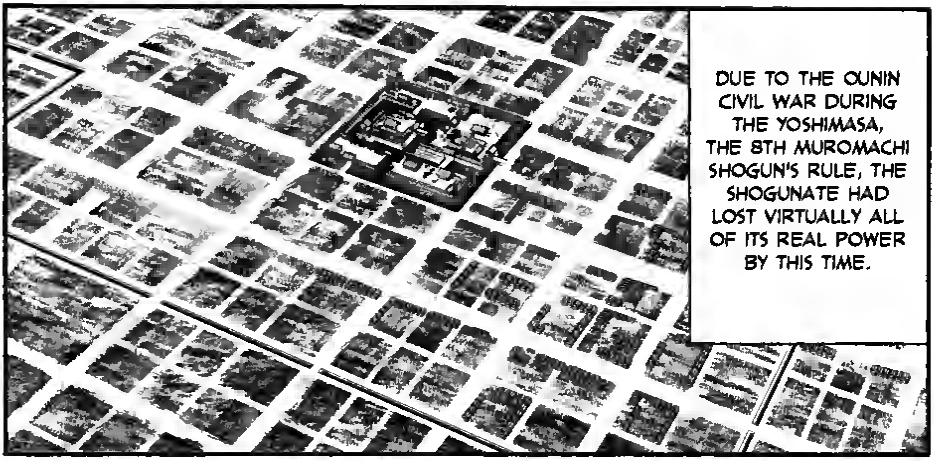
KEN...
I AM GOING TO SEND YOU TO THE SHOGUN'S KITCHENS.



Chapter 10 The Shogun's Kitchen

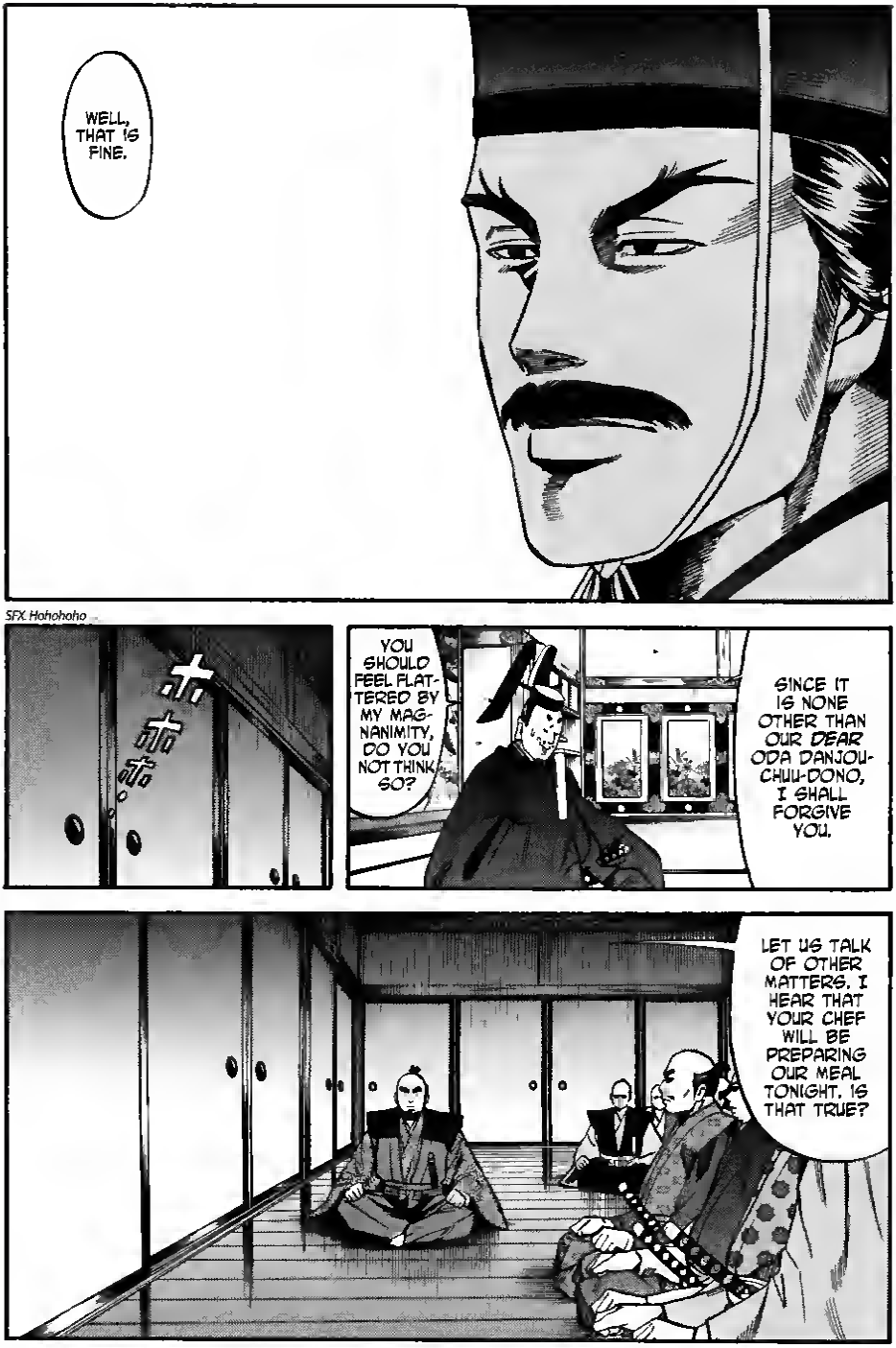

WELL, I GUESS WE SHOULD LET BYGONES BE BYGONES.
YOU DARED TO ATTACK ISE OF YOUR OWN ACCORD...
YOU HAD BETTER MAKE SURE TO SEEK MY PERMISSION BEFORE MAKING ANY FURTHER MOVES THOUGH...
Hmm?
Muromachi Shogunate
15th Shogun
ASHIKAGA YOSHIAKI

I WILL KEEP YOUR ADVICE IN A CORNER OF MY HEART.
SFX Hmph
フーン
YOSHIAKI, YOUNGER BROTHER OF THE PREVIOUS SHOGUN, YOSHITERU, IN THE 11TH YEAR OF THE EIROKU...
~Grumble...~
...WAS BESTOWED THE TITLE OF SHOGUN AND PROTECTOR OF THE REALM WITH ODA NOBUNAGA'S SUPPORT.
SFX Sulk
COR...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CORNER ?!


DUE TO THE OUNIN CIVIL WAR DURING THE YOSHIMASA, THE 8TH MUROMACHI SHOGUN'S RULE, THE SHOGUNATE HAD LOST VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS REAL POWER BY THIS TIME.

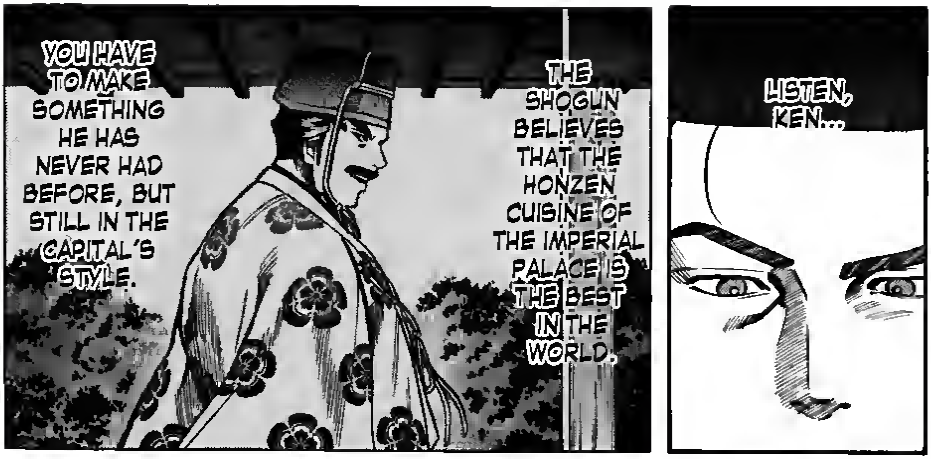
NOBUNAGA, WHO WAS LOOKING FOR A PRETEXT TO INTERFERE IN KYOTO POLITICS, DECIDED TO TAKE ON THE GREAT CAUSE OF "RESTORING THE MUROMACHI SHOGUNATE".
IN THAT CAPACITY, HE RESTORED YOSHIAKI, WHO HAD BEEN SEEKING PROTECTION FROM ASAKURA YOSHIKAGE, THE LORD OF ECHIZEN.

LIKE IN THE PAST, THE SHOGUNS BECAME THE CENTER OF POLITICS AND STARTED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN LORDS.
NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD AND ALLIANCES MADE WITH PROMINENT REGIONAL LORDS SUCH AS UESUGI KENSHIN, TAKEDA SHINGEN, MOURI MOTONARI, AND OOTOMO SOURIN.
AS YOSHIAKI TOOK UP HIS DUTIES AS SHOGUN, THE MUROMACHI SHOGUNATE BEGAN TO BROADEN ITS INFLUENCE ONCE AGAIN.
AND IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT NOBUNAGA ATTACKED AND DEFEATED THE INFLUENTIAL KITABATAKE DAIMYO LORDS.

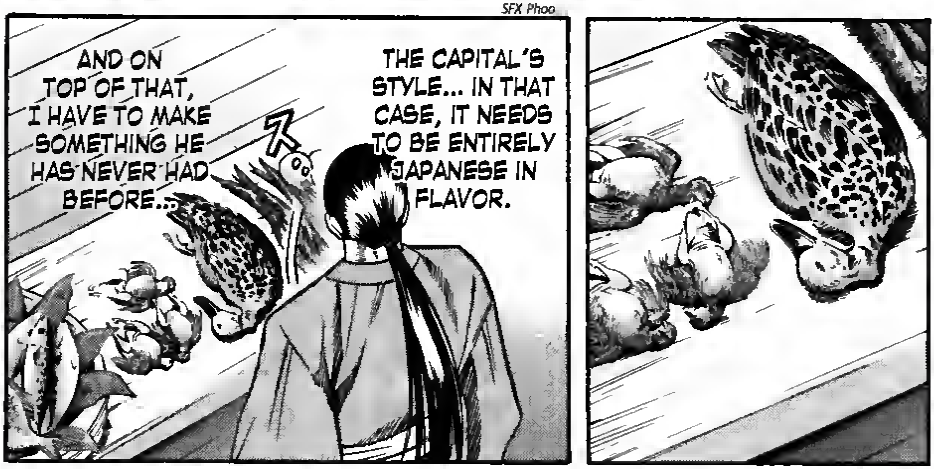

WELL, THAT IS FINE.
SFX: Hahohaho
YOU SHOULD FEEL FLATTERED BY MY MAGNANIMITY, DO YOU NOT THINK SO?
SINCE IT IS NONE OTHER THAN OUR DEAR ODA DANJOU-CHUU-DONO, I SHALL FORGIVE YOU.
LET US TALK OF OTHER MATTERS. I HEAR THAT YOUR CHEF WILL BE PREPARING OUR MEAL TONIGHT. IS THAT TRUE?

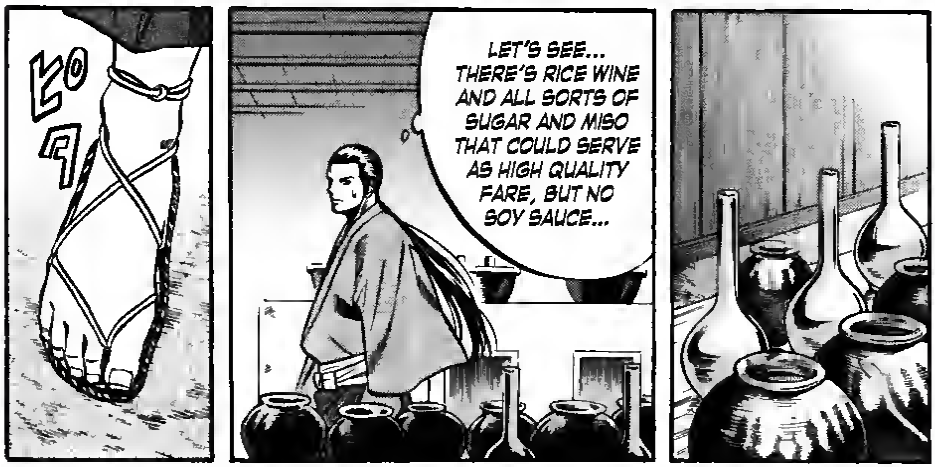
BETTER THAN HONZEN CUISINE?!
I ASSURE YOU, IT WILL BE EVEN BETTER THAN THE HONZEN CUISINE OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE.
INDEED.
COUNTRY BUMPKINS SURE ARE AMUSING..
Hohoho. WELL THAT IS SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO...
AS IF THEY COULD MAKE SOMETHING BETTER THAN HONZEN CUISINE!
HONZEN CUISINE — USED FOR FORMAL OCCASIONS AMONG THE MILITARY AND NOBLE CLASSES AND AT IMPORTANT CEREMONIES, SUCH AS MARRIAGES, THE CUISINE CONSISTED OF A SOUP WITH THREE DISHES
THIS BASIC FOOD PRESENTATION BEGAN WITH CHAKAISEKI CUISINE, WHICH GREW FROM A FRUGAL MEAL TO PRECEDE TEA CEREMONIES DURING THE AZUCHI-MOMOYAMA PERIOD...
LATER, IT WAS ADAPTED INTO EDO PERIOD KAISEKI CUISINE THAT PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE SEASONS...
AND IN THE PRESENT, IT IS THE BASIS OF THE JAPANESE CUISINE THAT IS SERVED TODAY.

Sfx: Hohoho
DOES HE SEEK TO APPEASE THE SHOGUN'S ANGER WITH FOOD...?
THE LORD LEFT THE DINNER PREPARATIONS TO KEN TONIGHT.
KEN, SUCCESS FOR THIS DINNER WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER YOU CAN CALM HIM DOWN.



SFX Phoo

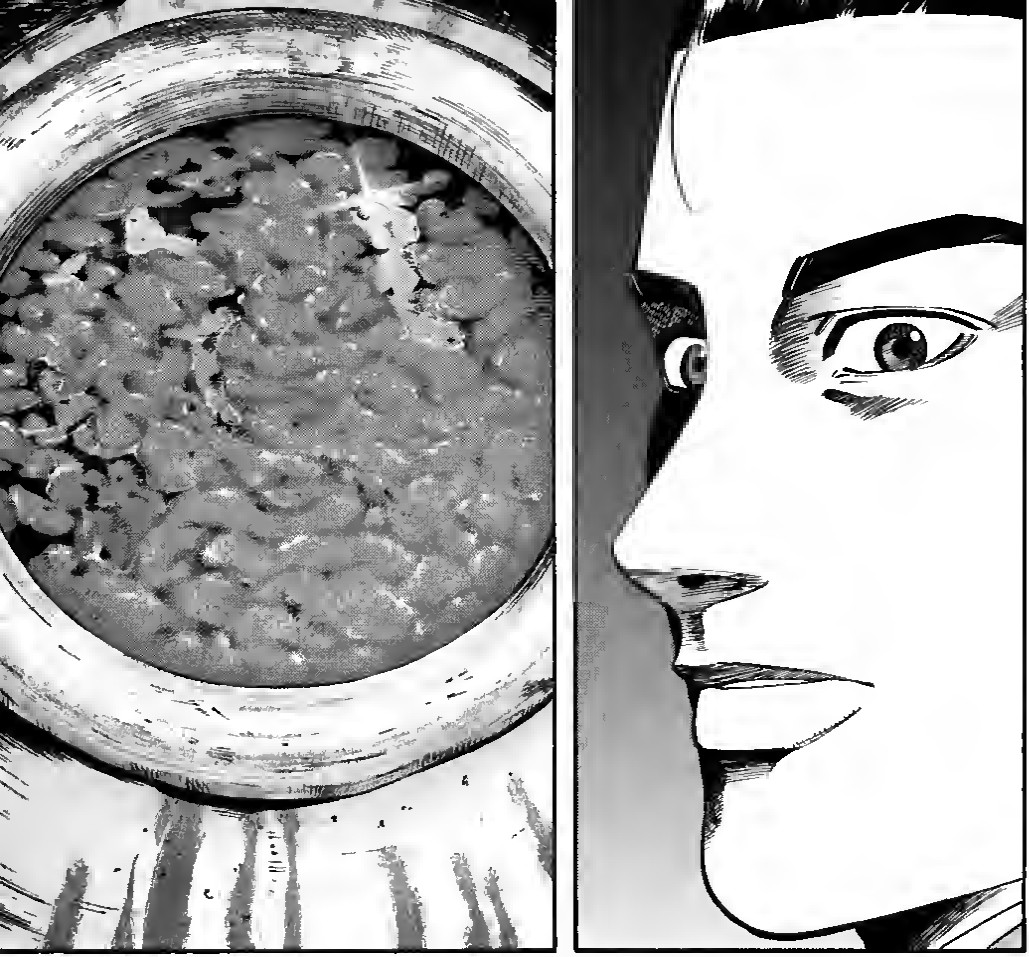


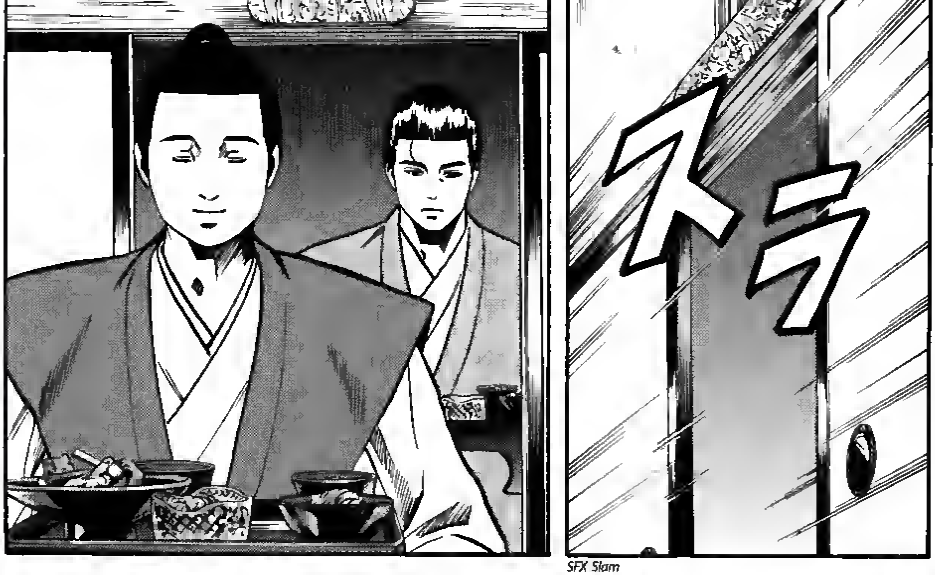


SFX Step

SHOULD I MAKE SOY SAUCE?
NO, THAT'D TAKE TOO LONG.

IN THAT CASE, SOY SAUCE MUST BE SOMETHING HE'S NEVER TASTED BEFORE.





SFX Slam

SFX Glance

*Hiryouzu, a.k.a ganmodoki (T/N: This is a dish made with either konjac or tofu, usually fried.)

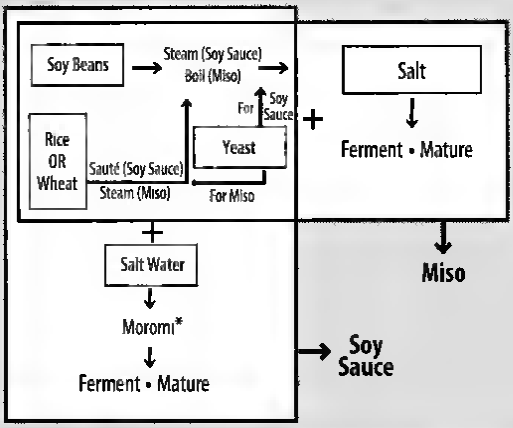
BUT HOW COME I HAVE NEVER SEEN FOOD LIKE THIS BEFORE?
IT IS TRUE--IT LOOKS LIKE IT IS SHINING...
HOW BEAUTIFUL...
I-I SEE.
GLANCE
...
SFX. Chomp
SFX. Nom Nom

OUP!!!
SFX Snap
SO MEL
LOW
'TIS...

WHAT IS THIS SOUP?! HOW DID YOU MAKE IT?!
THIS MEAT IS SO TENDER AND LIGHT.
ON TOP OF THAT, THE BROTH HAS A SPICY FLAVOR WITH A HINT OF SWEETNESS THAT...
...IS WONDER-FUL...!!
IT'S MADE WITH THE TOP CLEAR LAYER OF MISO.
I GATHERED IT TOGETHER AND CUT IT WITH SAKE...
THEN I MIXED IT WITH SUGAR AND THE SAUCE FROM THE GRILLED QUAIL, THEN I LET THE BROTH SIMMER.

IT'S OFTEN HELD THAT THE CLEAR LAYER FROM MISO WAS THE ORIGIN OF SOY SAUCE, SINCE IT TASTES SO SIMILAR...

IT'S MORE THAN CLOSE ENOUGH TO USE AS A SUBSTITUTE.



THE PRODUCTION PROCESS ONLY HAS A FEW SMALL DIFFERENCES...

*T/N: A mixture to start the fermentation process

...THE EUROPEAN TECHNIQUE THAT USES THE GLUTAMATE RICH REMAINS FROM COOKING MEAT OR FISH, BY MELTING IT INTO A SAUCE.

AND THEN IT IS 'DÉGLACER'...

SFX Sit
ストッ
Hmhm-hmm...
!!
MY, OH MY, THIS IS WONDERFUL.
YOU HAVE PLEASED ME GREATLY.
SFX Phew
SFX Swip...
スパッ
ODA-DONO...

I REQUEST THAT YOU PRESENT ME WITH THIS CHEF.

?!

Chapter 11 In Natsu's House

*T/N Nobunaga is referring to the tale of the frog and the well, in which the frog cannot see anything outside of his small, little world.

YOU.... YOU CANNOT TREAT ME LIKE A FROG!
NOW, PLEASE EXCUSE US.
SFX Slam
WAS THAT ALRIGHT?

Hmm... I REALLY DO NOT KNOW.
BUT OUR LORD LOOKS CALM...
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS IS GOING ACCORDING TO SOME PLAN OF HIS.
KEN, TAKE SOME TIME OFF.
I GRANT YOU PERMISSION TO SPREAD YOUR WINGS IN THE CAPITAL AS YOU PLEASE.
EH?
YOSHI-NARI, COME WITH ME.
AH, BUT...

SFX Whisper
IT IS HIS WAY OF SAYING THAT YOU SHOULD GO MEET NATSU...
JUST THANK HIM LATER.
DOESN'T HE THINK THAT I MIGHT RUN AWAY?
...
YOSHI-NARI.
YES, SIR?
EH?

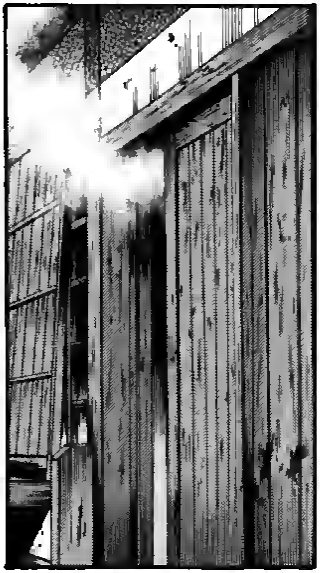
NOBUNAGA, THE BASTARD! HOW DARE HE HUMILIATE ME...!
SFX. Clatter Clatter
I SHALL DEFINITELY MAKE THAT CHEF MINE, JUST YOU WAIT...!

SFX. Clack
I PRO-MISE...
I WILL SURVIVE...
AND RETURN TO THE HEISEI!
YOU HAVE TO SURVIVE...!
SFX. Tap Tap Tap
HEISEI..
HEISEI, hmm...
...

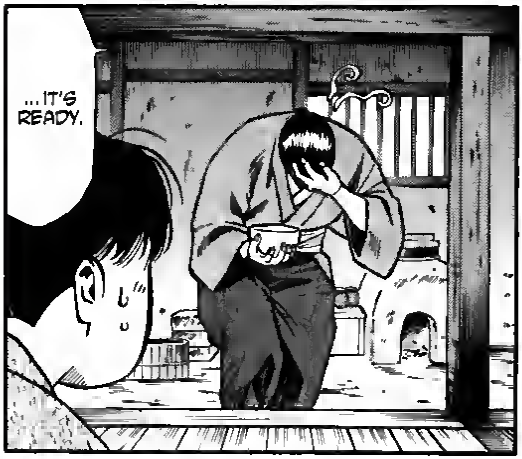
KEN!
SFX: Run
SFX: Haa Haa
NATSU-SAN...
IT IS REALLY YOU... I AM SO GLAD!
I THOUGHT I SAW YOU EARLIER, BUT YOU WERE WITH OTHER PEOPLE, SO...

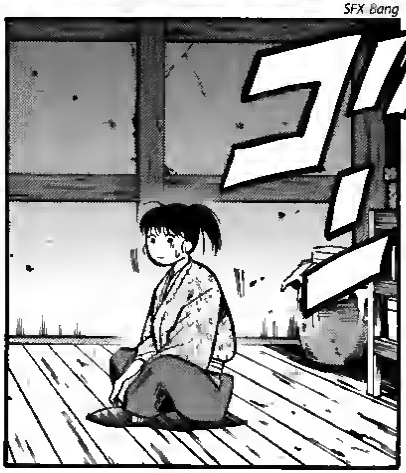
Ah, THAT'S RIGHT, I HAVE A PRESENT FOR YOU.
NATSU-SAN...
IT'S A CANDY CALLED CONFEITO... NOW LET'S SEE, huh?
Oh, SORRY... I CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD AND DIDN'T PACK IT.
SFX Swip Swip
HEY, KEN...?!
WAIT A MOMENT.
DO NOT WORRY ABOUT IT! I AM JUST HAPPY I GOT TO SEE YOU!

SFX: Crackle Crackle



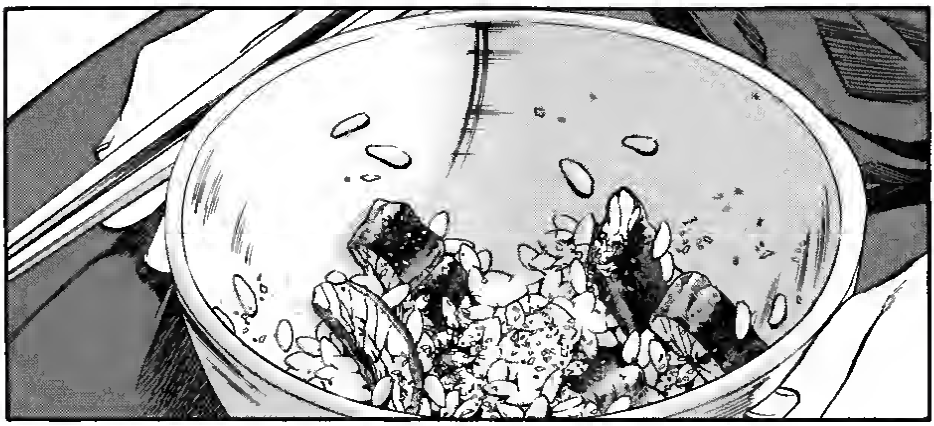
SFX: Bang





*Ujimaru unagi (eel)
T/N Grilled kabayaki ujimaru over rice See chapter 1 for more information

IT'S A FLAVOR I RECENTLY DISCOVERED, SO I WANTED YOU TO TRY IT, NATSU-SAN.
DIVING INTO A LAKE IN THE WINTER TO CATCH UJIMARU...
HITTING YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE BEAM...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, KEN.
YOUR HEAD REALLY IS CHOCK-FULL OF THOUGHTS ABOUT FOOD.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE CHANGED A LOT.
YOU RECEIVED THE FAVOR OF SUCH A POWERFUL DAIMYO LORD AS ODA NOBUNAGA...
...SO I THOUGHT THAT WITH YOUR SUCCESS YOU WOULD GROW DISTANT... THAT YOU MIGHT NEVER COME BACK HERE...



I AM REALLY HAPPY...

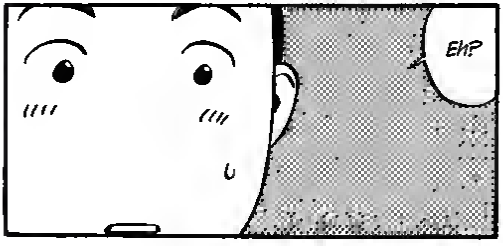
THAT YOU ARE STILL THE SAME *YOU.*

IF ONLY THIS HAPPINESS COULD CONTINUE LIKE THIS...

IT MIGHT'VE BEEN A MUCH MORE PEACEFUL...
...AND NICER PLACE TO LIVE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF PLACE THE HEISEI WAS...
RETURN TO THE HEISEI!
BUT STILL...
I JUST...
...WANT TO STAY HERE.

SFX Slap

...SO IF I WANT TO CONTINUE AS A BLACKSMITH, THEN I HAVE TO REMAIN A MAIDEN AND...
THE GODDESS OF THE FORGE IS A JEALOUS ONE...
SO... YOU KNOW... I CANNOT YET...


Eh?

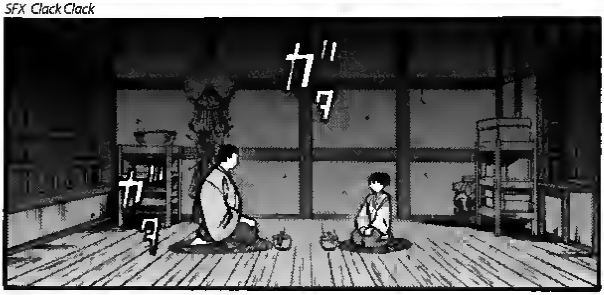
YOU MUST-N'T!
WA--- WAIT, WAIT!

SFX. Steam
Oops!
ポッ
...THAT THERE'S SOME RICE ON YOUR CHEEK.
Oh, IT'S JUST...
SFX. Woosh
ヒュウ
SFX. Heartbeat
ドキン
ドキン
SFX. Heartbeat

SFX: Woosh

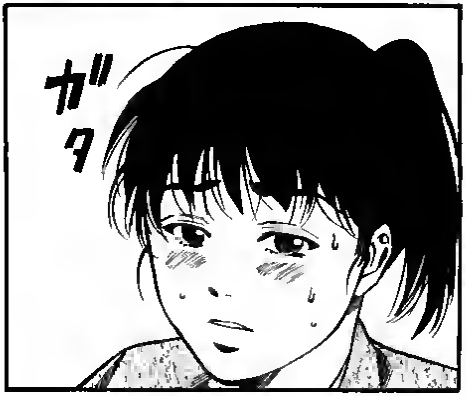
SFX: Rustle

SFX: Clack Clack

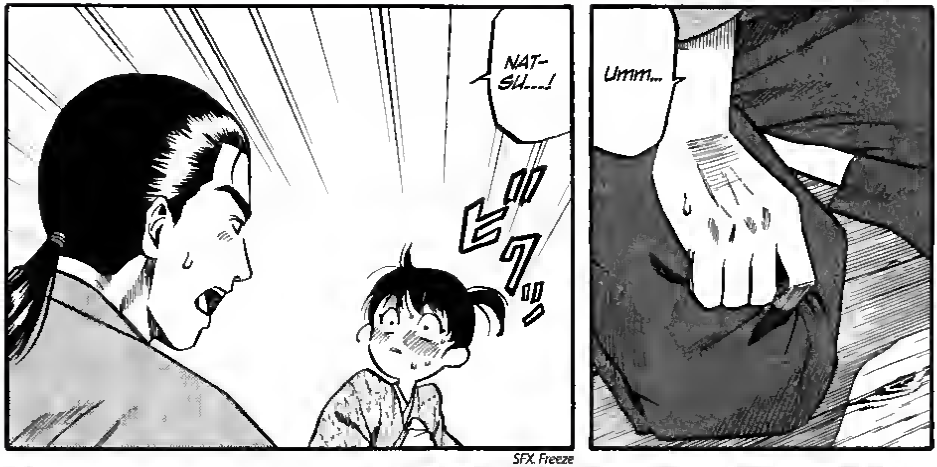


SFX: Clack Clack

SFX: Clack



SFX: Clack



SFX. Freeze

SFX Slam

WHA-?! WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE ---?

SFX: Punch
SFX: Thud
Ugh!

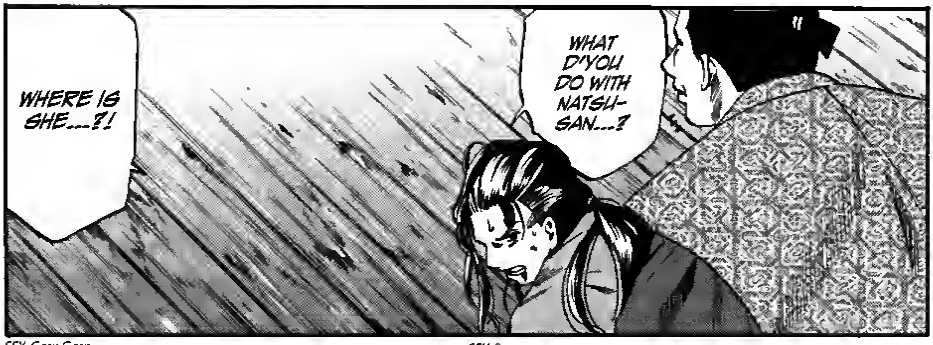
TAKE HIM!
THIS ONE IS KEN!

NAT-SU-SAN ---!

NAT---

KEN!

Chapter 12 Plots and Injustices



SFX Gasp Gasp

SFX Bang

GOOD JOB BRINGING HIM HERE.
Ho Ho Ho...
SFX Rattle
ガラ
YOU WERE NOT SEEN BY NOBUNAGA, I TRUST?

WELL, FORGIVE THEM
IT APPEARS THAT THE MEN I SENT WERE A BIT ROUGH, BUT...
YOSHIAKI...? ASHIKAGA...
BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO BE MY CHEF FROM NOW ON.
PERSONAL CHEF TO THE SHOGUN...
NOT BAD, DON'T YOU THINK? *Hmm?*
YOU MEAN...
...YOU BROUGHT ME ALL THE WAY HERE LIKE THIS *JUST* FOR THAT...?

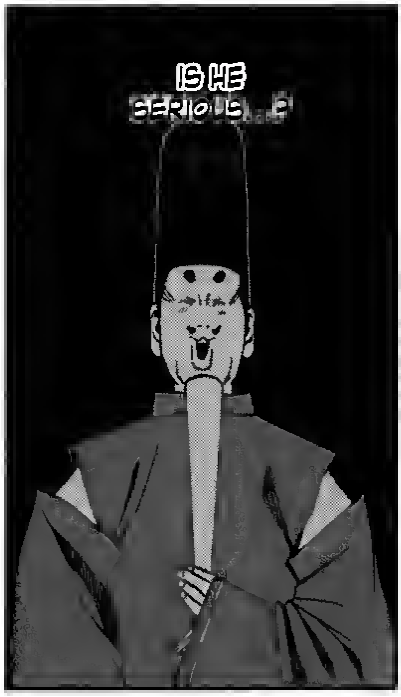
YOU CANNOT REFUSE THAT!
I SHALL GIVE YOU A HIGHER WAGE THAN NOBUNAGA EVER DID!
I SHALL EVEN GRANT YOU A NOBLE TITLE! I KNOW... HOW ABOUT A RESIDENCE?
WHAT? DO YOU NOT ACCEPT?!
NATSU?
Oho!
WHAT D'YOU... DO TO NATSU-SAN?!
TELL ME, WHAT ELSE DO YOU DESIRE?!

SEX Smirk

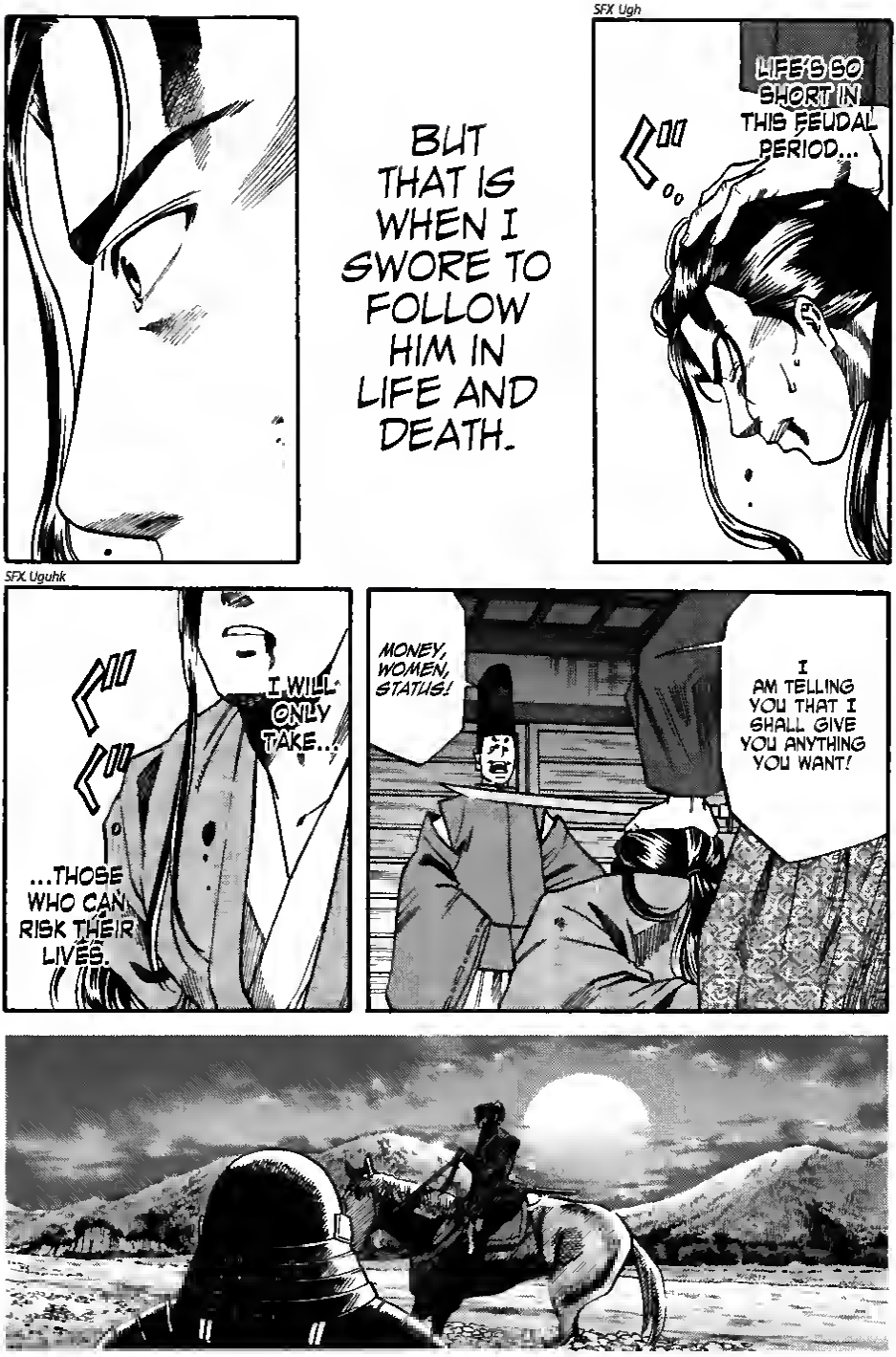
HOHOH
A WOMAN, IS IT?
I GET IT NOW--JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
I SHALL PREPARE YOU THE MOST BEAUTIFUL JEWEL OF A WOMAN YOU HAVE EVER SEEN!
ニタァ

I SHALL GATHER A BEVY OF THEM, ALL FAR BETTER THAN ANY GIFU COUNTRY GIRL OR SOME LOW CLASS CITY GIRL.
SFX Hohoho

...IS THE KIND OF MAN WHO STANDS ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE?
SO THIS...


IS HE SERIOUS...?

I REFUSE!
I'LL NEVER WORK UNDER YOU!
Ho!
NOW, I WANT THAT 'TERAYAKI' AGAIN...
I REFUSE!
WHAT...?!
SFX Slam
YOU THINK...I SHALL JUST RETURN YOU TO NOBUNAGA UNSCATHED?
SFX Kaching
YOU WRETCH!
ナ!!
I SHAN'T REPEAT MYSELF AGAIN.
WORK FOR ME AS MY CHEF.
ニカギ

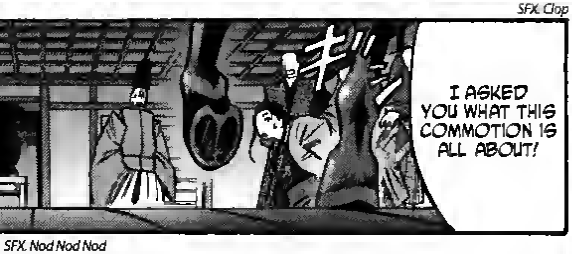

BUT THAT IS WHEN I SWORE TO FOLLOW HIM IN LIFE AND DEATH.
SFX Ugh
LIFE'S SO SHORT IN THIS FEUDAL PERIOD...
SFX Uguhk
I WILL ONLY TAKE...
...THOSE WHO CAN RISK THEIR LIVES.
MONEY, WOMEN, STATUS!
I AM TELLING YOU THAT I SHALL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT!

I WILL SHOW YOU THE WORLD.
I REFUSE!
I'M NOBU-NAGA'S CHEF!

SFX Woosh

SFX Shing..

SFX. Clop



SFX. Nod Nod Nod

SFX Menace
Ugh...
WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU THAT MAN IS MY CHEF.
JUST BECAUSE YOU BECAME SHOGUN, YOU BECOME FULL OF YOURSELF, THINKING THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER...
IF YOU TOUCH KEN, THEN I SHALL DEVOUR YOU.
THIS IS A SIMPLE MATTER...
SFX Hmph

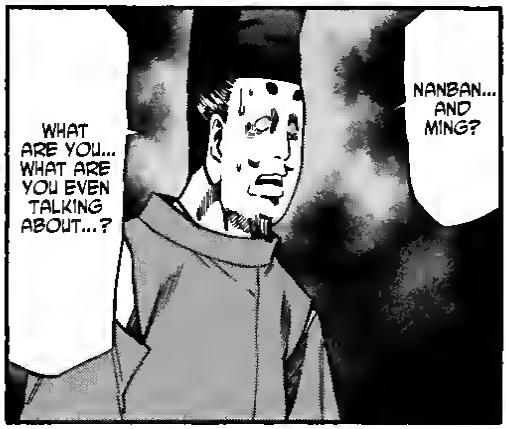
STOP DELUDING YOURSELF AND REALIZE THE TRUTH THAT IS IN FRONT OF YOU.
YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN MY PUPPET.
WHAT ...?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I AM THE SHOGUN!
I AM THE ONE WHO REPRESENTS ORDER AND PEACE IN THIS WORLD!
FOOL.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO WITH NO MORE REAL MIGHT THAN A SEAL OF OFFICE?
OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE SEA AROUND YOU...
ALREADY, THE NANBAN PEOPLES HOLD SAILING ROUTES ALL AROUND THE WORLD.
AND WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
PETTY SQUABBLES BETWEEN REGIONAL DAIMYOS CONTINUE, AND THE NATION AND ITS RESOURCES ARE SQUANDERED.

WE MUST UNIFY THE NATION QUICKLY...
...AND CATCH UP WITH THE NANBAN AND MING!

SFX: Ruffle

ガア

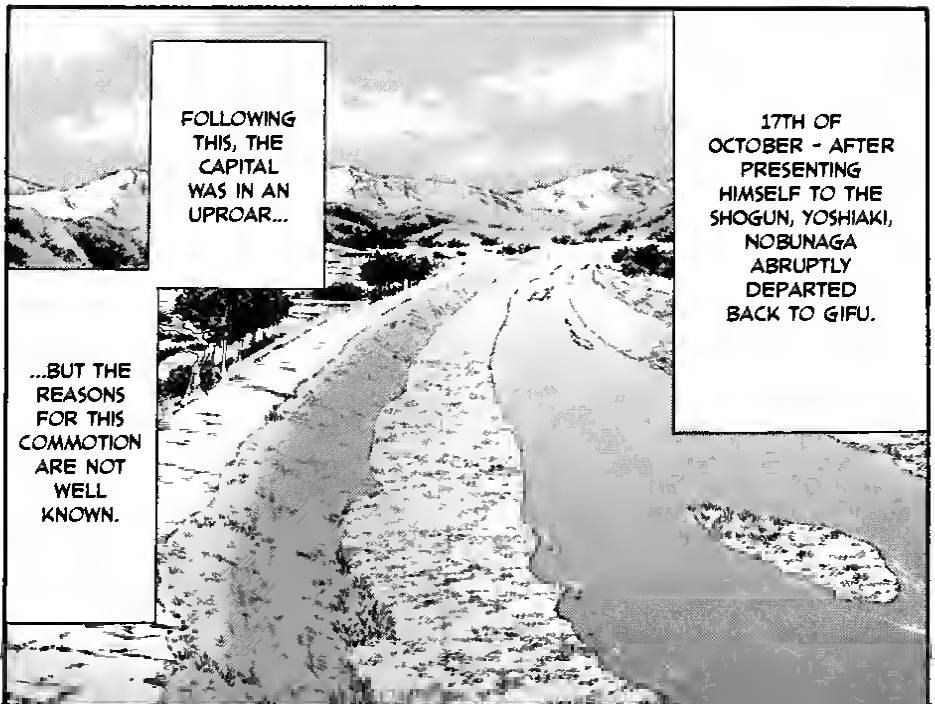

NANBAN... AND MING?
WHAT ARE YOU... WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT...?

I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT!
A COUNTRY THAT WILL NOT BE INFERIOR TO THE REST OF THE WORLD... MORE THAN THAT, EVEN.
I SHALL MAKE THE WORLD ANEW.

...
WHETHER IT IS WITHIN YOUR REALM OF COMPREHENSION MATTERS LITTLE.
YOU...
YOU ARE A RAVING LUNATIC!
YOU ARE MAD...!

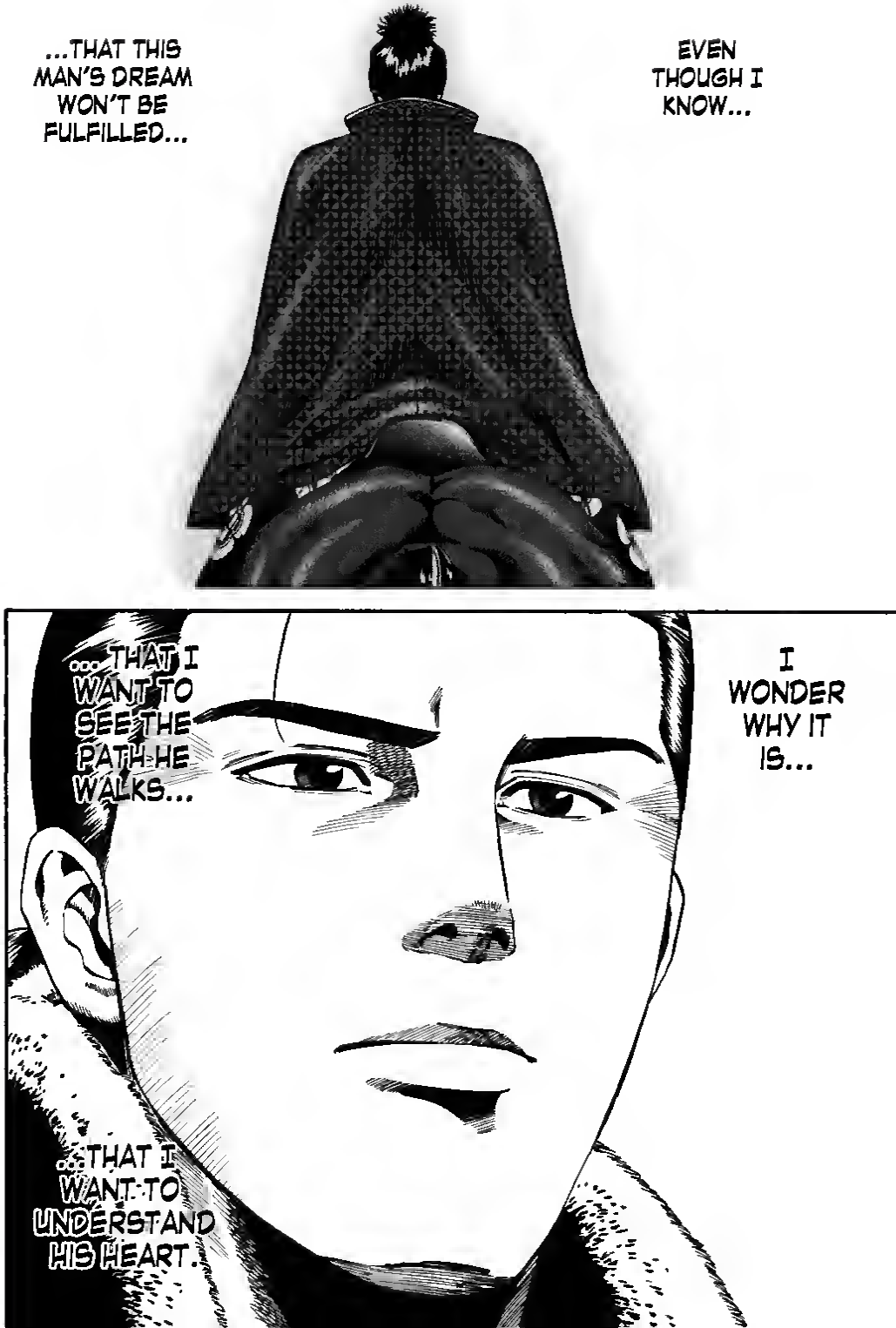
YOU WILL CONTINUE SITTING ON YOUR HIGH SEAT AND OBEY.
COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY THAT SOME OF THE DAIMYO LORDS ARE TRADITIONALISTS WHO ARE STILL INFLUENCED BY THE TITLE OF 'SHOGUN'.

SFX. Clop


FOLLOWING THIS, THE CAPITAL WAS IN AN UPROAR...
...BUT THE REASONS FOR THIS COMMOTION ARE NOT WELL KNOWN.
17TH OF OCTOBER - AFTER PRESENTING HIMSELF TO THE SHOGUN, YOSHIAKI, NOBUNAGA ABRUPTLY DEPARTED BACK TO GIFU.

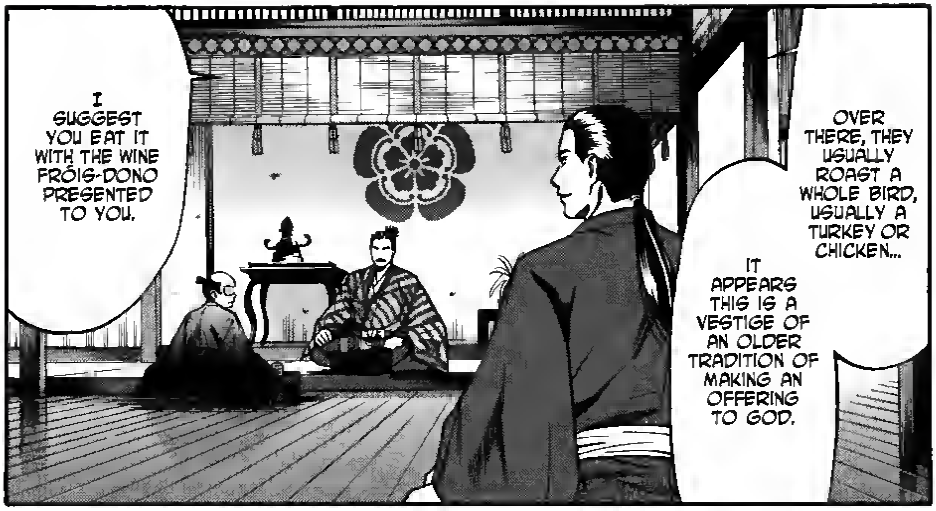
YOU USED ME TO INCITE THE SHOGUN AND DRAW HIM INTO A PRECARIOUS SITUATION.
AND IT WAS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS THAT, YOU, MORI-DONO, ASSIGNED SCOUTS TO KEEP AN EYE ON [illegible].
IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS I WAS BAIT FOR YOUR TRAP.
SFX Gesture
KE--N!
NO NEED TO BE SO ANGRY.
SFX Wave Wave
NATSU-SAN...?!

OUR LORD IS ALSO THINKING OF YOUR WELLBEING.
THIS IS A VERY RARE HONOR.
HE ORDERED HIS GUARDS TO PROTECT NATSUDONO UNTIL THE COMMOTION DIES DOWN.
I JUST CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT...
...WHETHER HE'S CRUEL OR KIND...
...EVEN THOUGH I ALREADY KNOW...


...THAT THIS MAN'S DREAM WON'T BE FULFILLED...
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW...
...THAT I WANT TO SEE THE PATH HE WALKS...
I WONDER WHY IT IS...
...THAT I WANT TO UNDERSTAND HIS HEART.

Chapter 13 Nobunaga's New Year

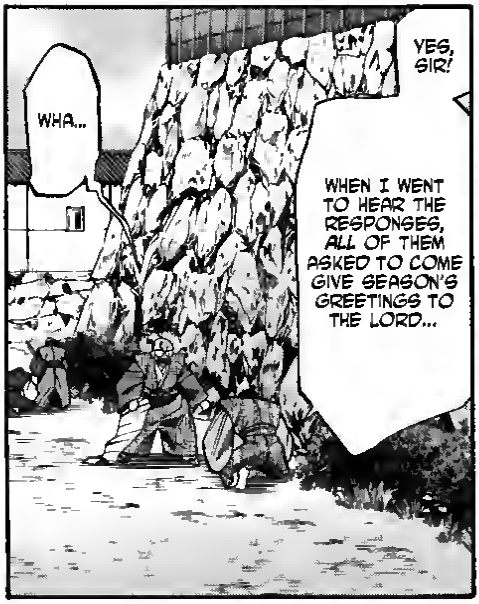
SO THIS IS WHAT NANBAN PEOPLE EAT WHEN CELEBRATING THEIR GOD'S BIRTHDAY, IS IT?


I SUGGEST YOU EAT IT WITH THE WINE FRÖIS-DONO PRESENTED TO YOU.
OVER THERE, THEY USUALLY ROAST A WHOLE BIRD, USUALLY A TURKEY OR CHICKEN...
IT APPEARS THIS IS A VESTIGE OF AN OLDER TRADITION OF MAKING AN OFFERING TO GOD.

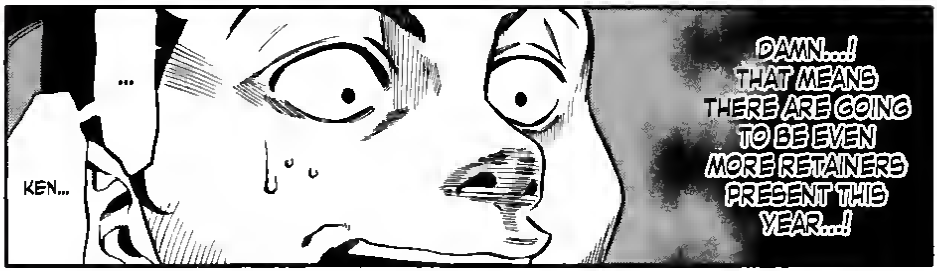
THAT MIX OF ACIDIC, TANNIC, AND SWEET TASTES IS SUPPOSED TO COMPLEMENT THE GLUTAMIC CONTENT OF THE MEAT, BRINGING OUT A SPECIAL UMAMI FLAVOR.
Whew!
THIS STUFF IS SOUR...

SEEMS HE LIKES THE STRONGER SEASONING.
THINKING OF HOW TO COMPLEMENT THE WINE, I ADDED A BIT MORE SALT THAN USUAL TO THE FOOD...
HIS EXPRESSION'S DIFFERENT THAN NORMAL...
Oh!
THIS IS GOOD.
SO THERE IS NOTHING LIKE OUBAN, THEN.
NOPE. FOR THEM, CHRISTMAS IS THE IMPORTANT HOLIDAY, SO NEW YEAR'S DOESN'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL CULINARY TRADITION...
DO NANBAN PEOPLE EAT ANYTHING SPECIAL AT NEW YEAR'S?
...AND THIS PRACTISE IS THE ORIGIN OF THE SAYING 'OBAN FURUMAI' OR 'A LAVISH FEAST'.
DURING THE EDO PERIOD, SUPERIORS BEGAN TO TREAT THEIR SUBORDINATES TO THESE MEALS...
THIS WAS A TRADITIONAL MEAL PRESENTED TO PEOPLE OF HIGHER STATUS.
OUBAN IS A MEAL COMPOSED OF ABALONE, PICKLED PLUMS, AND JELLYFISH WITH VINEGAR AND SALT.

OF COURSE!
YOU CAN PUT YOUR TRUST IN ME, YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANT!
SFX Hmph
フー
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUCH A MEAL THAT REEKS OF ANTIQUATED CUSTOMS.
SARU, I TRUST YOU ARE WELL PREPARED FOR THE NEW YEAR'S BANQUET.
SFX Swip
ヤリ
VERY WELL. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FESTIVITIES.
31ST OF DECEMBER, IN THE 12TH YEAR OF THE EIROKU (1569)


WHA...
YES, SIR!
WHEN I WENT TO HEAR THE RESPONSES, ALL OF THEM ASKED TO COME GIVE SEASON'S GREETINGS TO THE LORD...

WHAT?! THERE ARE MORE GUESTS?!

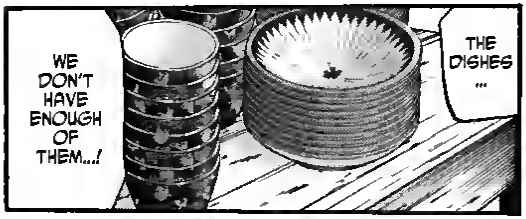

...
KEN...
DAMN...! THAT MEANS THERE ARE GOING TO BE EVEN MORE RETAINERS PRESENT THIS YEAR...!

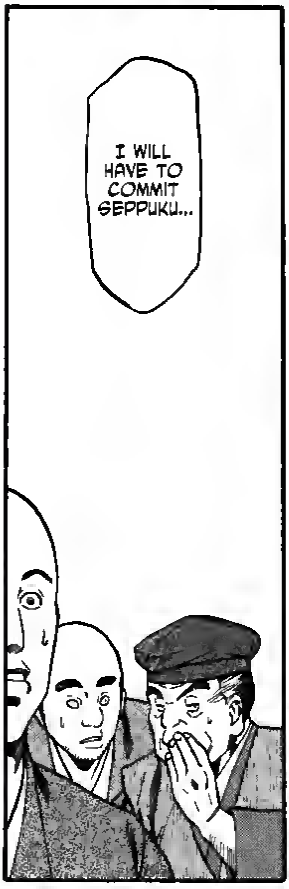
TWO...
TWO HUNDRED, YOU SAY?!

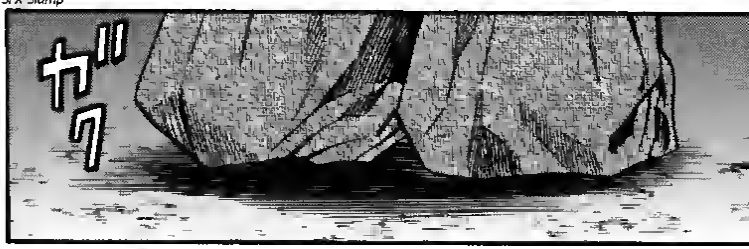
KEN...!

IF WE CAN PROCURE ENOUGH INGREDIENTS... WE CAN STILL PREPARE ENOUGH FOOD...
...BUT...

SFX Chatter
YES! CAN WE ACCOMMO-DATE THAT MANY, RIGHT AWAY?

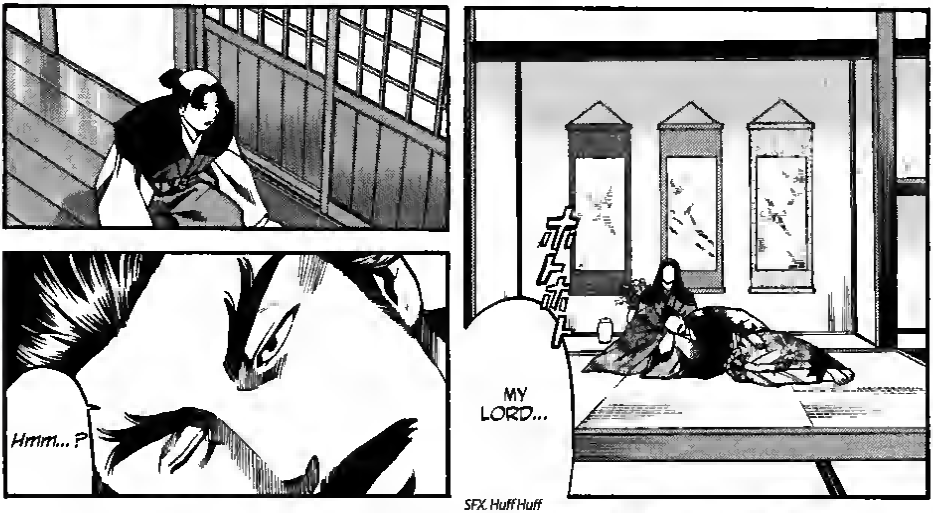

THE DISHES...
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OF THEM...!


I WILL HAVE TO COMMIT SEPPUKU...

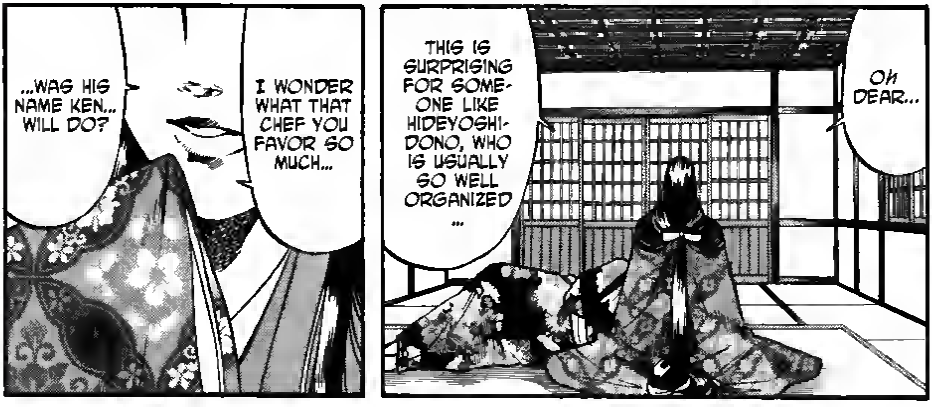

SFX Slump

AT THIS RATE, I WILL SULLY OUR LORD'S HONOR...
HOW CAN THIS BE?

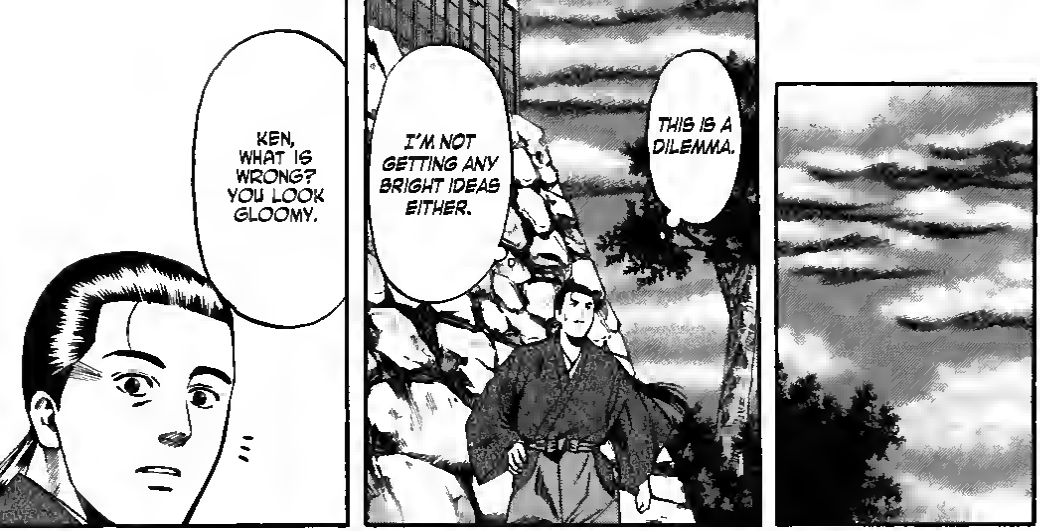
SFX. Throb

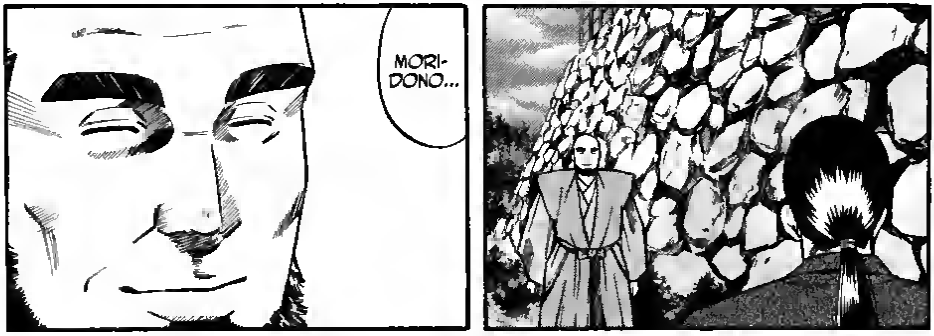


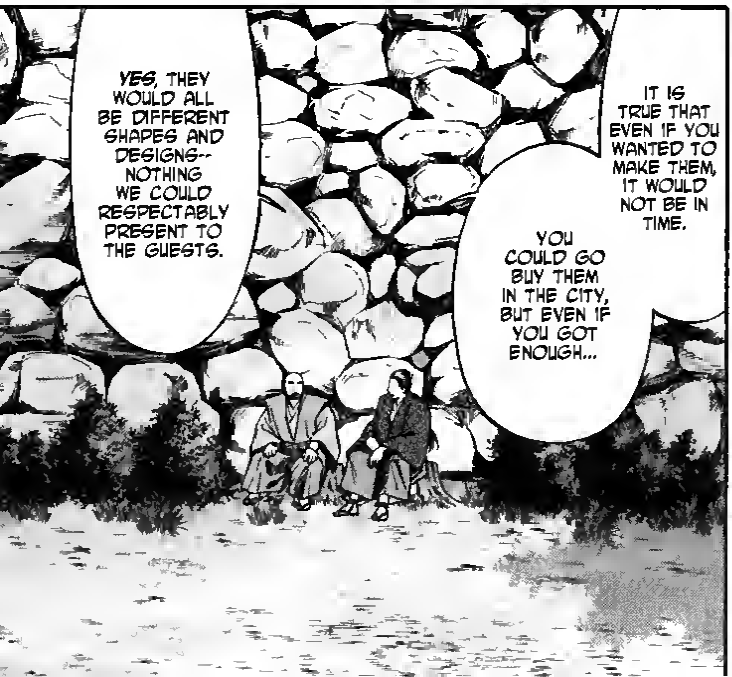
SFX. Huff Huff

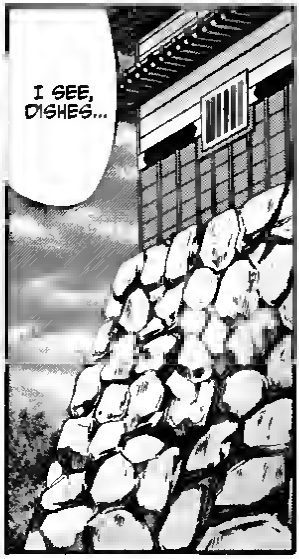


REALLY? SINCE MY LORD AND KEN SEEM TO BE QUITE ALIKE...
...I ASSUMED THAT YOU LIKED HIM.
IT IS NOT AS THOUGH I ESPECIALLY FAVOR HIM IN any WAY...
I ADMIT THAT HE IS VERY USEFUL HOWEVER.
KEN AND I?
ALIKE?
MY FATHER, DOUGAN, OFTEN SAID...
...THAT YOU, NOBUNAGA-DONO, WERE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER GENERALS--UNCONVEN-TIONAL.
FROM WHAT I HEAR, THIS KEN IS LIKE THAT TOO.
...UNCON-VENTIONAL?
DO NOT MAKE ME LAUGH!
I AM THE EPITOME OF PRACTICALITY.


KEN, WHAT IS WRONG? YOU LOOK GLOOMY.
I'M NOT GETTING ANY BRIGHT IDEAS EITHER.
THIS IS A DILEMMA.

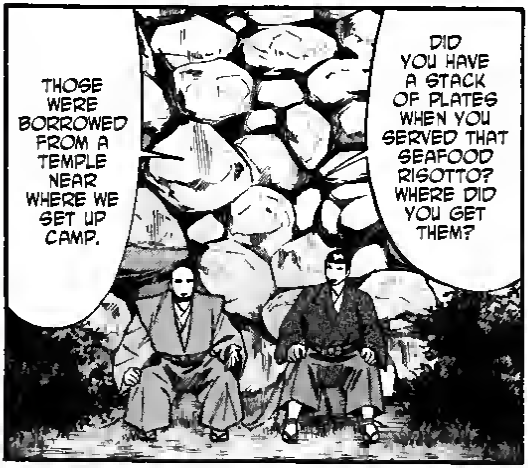

MORI-DONO...


YES, THEY WOULD ALL BE DIFFERENT SHAPES AND DESIGNS-- NOTHING WE COULD RESPECTABLY PRESENT TO THE GUESTS.
IT IS TRUE THAT EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO MAKE THEM, IT WOULD NOT BE IN TIME.
YOU COULD GO BUY THEM IN THE CITY, BUT EVEN IF YOU GOT ENOUGH...


I SEE, DISHES...

WHAT IS THE MATTER?
OH, IT'S NOTHING... EVER SINCE I WAS MAN-HANDLED BY THE SHOGUN AND HIS MEN...
...I'VE BEEN A BIT SORE FROM THE AFTER EFFECTS. IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

Ow!


DID YOU HAVE A STACK OF PLATES WHEN YOU SERVED THAT SEAFOOD RISOTTO? WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?
THOSE WERE BORROWED FROM A TEMPLE NEAR WHERE WE SET UP CAMP.

...
IT IS NOT AS THOUGH WE CAN USE CRUDE SUBSTITUTES LIKE THE HELMETS THE TROOPS USE DURING CAMPAIGNS, EITHER.

I JUST HAD TO LADLE THE RISOTTO INTO THEM FROM THE POT.

owww!

SFX: Chatter
ガヤ
SFX: Chatter
ガヤ
SFX: Tssss
ニュウカ
I'LL LEAVE THE SIDE DISH OF PUFFED POTATOES TO YOU.
HEY, KEN!

N.
PLEASE, SHOW ME SOMETHING ELSE...!
KEN..
WAS THAT FROM MY MEMORIES?

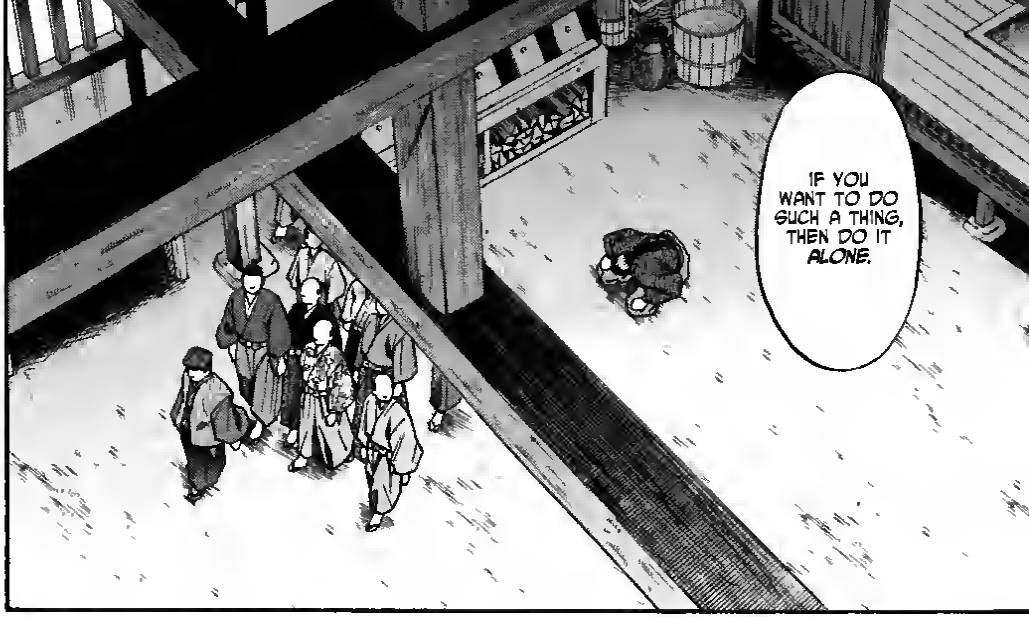
SFX Hah!
KEN!

Ah, NO...
I'M FINE NOW.
DOES IT HURT THAT BADLY?!

...WAS THAT JUST NOW?
WHAT...

HIDEYOSHI-SAN WILL HAVE TO COMMIT SEPPUKU...
AH...
I REALLY WANT TO HELP IN SOME WAY, BUT I KNOW NOT HOW...
IF HIDEYOSHI-SAMA WERE FORCED TO COMMIT SEPPUKU OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS...IT WOULD BE A GREAT SHAME.
THAT ASIDE, WHERE WERE WE...?
AH...
SFX Caw Caw
カァ
カァ
I CAN PRO BABLY...
...USE THAT THING I RE-MEMBERED.

I DO NOT CARE IF IT IS NANBAN STYLE OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT...
...THAT KIND OF BIZARRE DINNER PARTY CANNOT BE PERMITTED!
YOU CAN'T, YOU CAN'T!
NO WAY!
WE WILL NOT HELP YOU WITH SUCH NONSENSE!
BUT THIS IS OUR ONLY CHOICE!
SFX Kneel
I WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU IF YOU TRY TO BREAK WITH OUR TEACHERS AND PREDE-CESSORS.
COOKING IS A TRADITION PASSED DOWN TO US...
PLEASE, HELP ME!


IF YOU WANT TO DO SUCH A THING, THEN DO IT ALONE.

SFX Stand

ス

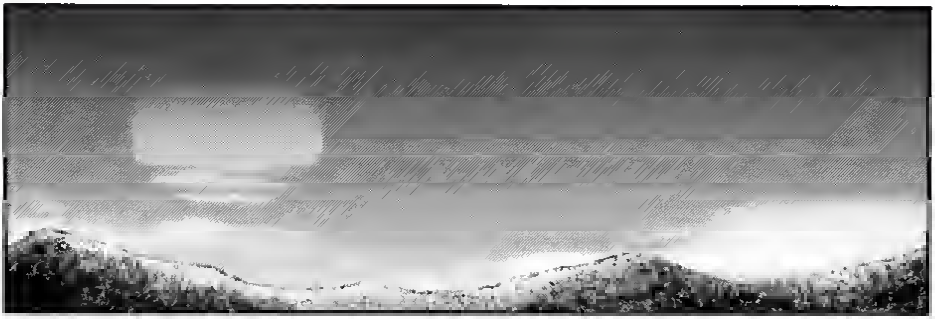
IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO PREPARE FOOD FOR OVER 200 BY HIMSELF THOUGH.

IT IS JUST THAT IF THE DINNER BANQUET TOMORROW ENDS IN DISGRACE FOR THE LORD...
...WE WILL BEAR THE BRUNT OF HIS DISPLEASURE TOO...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?! ARE YOU DISAGREEING WITH ME?!
NO, OF COURSE NOT....

SFX: Dash
WAIT A SEC, HERE...
HUH?
WHAT THEY SAID HAS MERIT, DOESN'T IT?
WE'RE SORRY! BUT WE'RE GOING TO HELP HIM AFTER ALL!
YOU TWERPS...
SFX: Gears Turning
WITH NO FOOD PREPARED, THE BANQUET IS A FAILURE
ALL THE CHEFS TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
THE BANQUET KEN PREPARES IS A FAILURE
KEN ALONE TAKES RESPONSIBILITY
ヒーー!
SFX: Lightbulb
EX-CUSE US...
SFX: Knock Knock
SFX: Knock Knock

WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST TO MAKE SURE THE LORD'S BANQUET TOMORROW IS A SUCCESS!
LET US HELP OUT... AFTER ALL, YOU ARE THE HEAD CHEF!
OH, THANKS, THAT'S GOOD.
...?
???
OKAY, YOU SLACKERS, MAKE SURE YOU DO ANYTHING KEN ASKS YOU TO!
LET US MAKE THE BEST FOOD UNDER HEAVEN FOR OUR LORD!
YES...!



1ST OF JANUARY IN THE 13TH YEAR OF THE EIROKU (1ST YEAR OF THE GENKI)

Hmph...

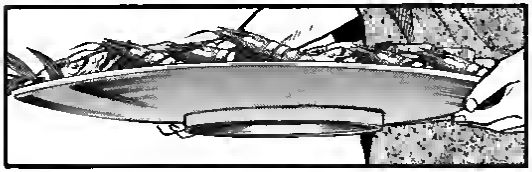
MY DEEPEST WISHES THAT YOUR ACTIVITIES FLOURISH DURING THIS NEW YEAR, MY LORD.

SFX Chatter Chatter
KEN... I AM COUNTING ON YOU.
SFX Chatter Chatter
BRING FORTH THE REPAST!
DO OR DIE...
LET'S DO THIS!

Chapter 14 Yoshinari's Saying

WHAT IS THIS?!

SFX. Brake

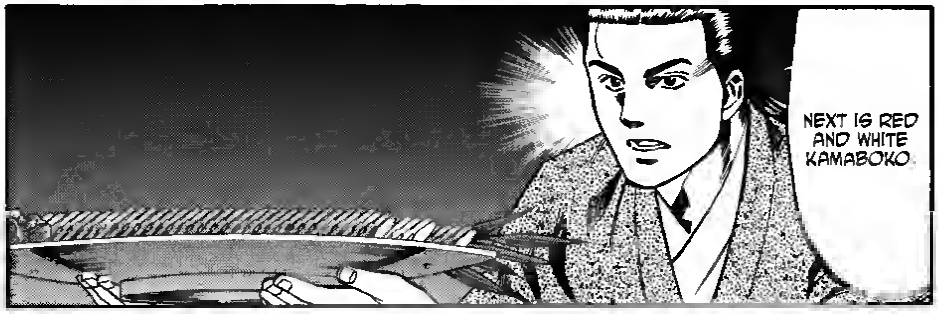


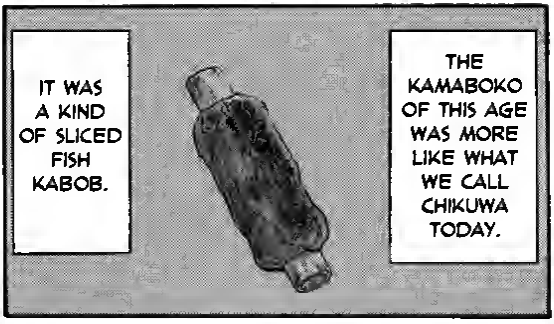
PLEASE, GO AHEAD AND TAKE THE PORTION YOU'D LIKE.

ヒロ

PLEASE.
PLEASE.
HELP YOURSELF TO THIS SHRIMP AND SEA BREAM GRILLED WITH SALT.

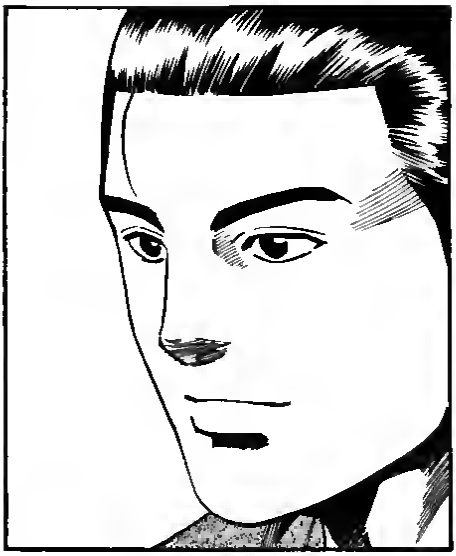
Huh?!


NEXT IS RED AND WHITE KAMABOKO.


IT WAS A KIND OF SLICED FISH KABOB.
THE KAMABOKO OF THIS AGE WAS MORE LIKE WHAT WE CALL CHIKUWA TODAY.

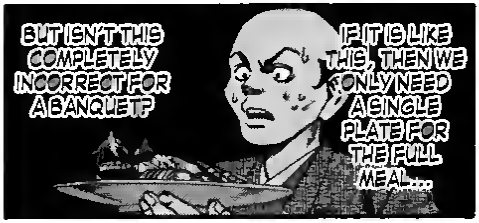
THIS IS?
KAMA-BOKO?

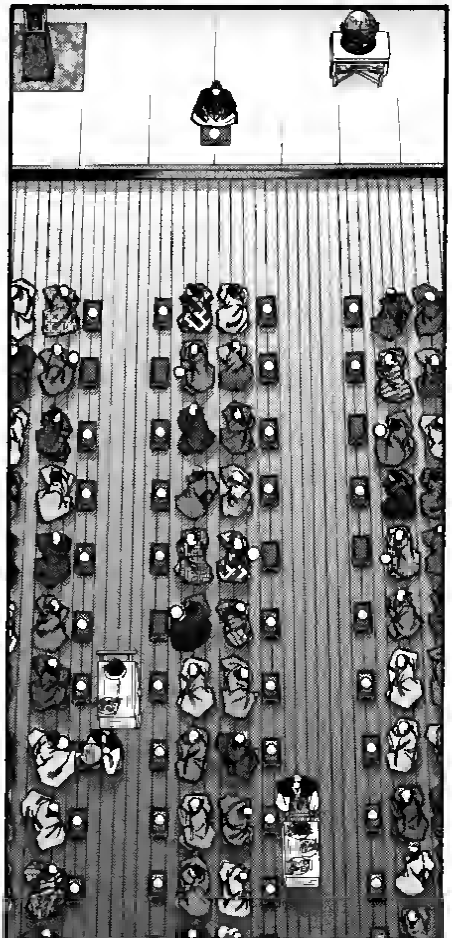
IT LOOKS VERY FRESH AND TASTY...



WELL I'LL BE...
I SHALL TAKE BOTH COLORS THEN!

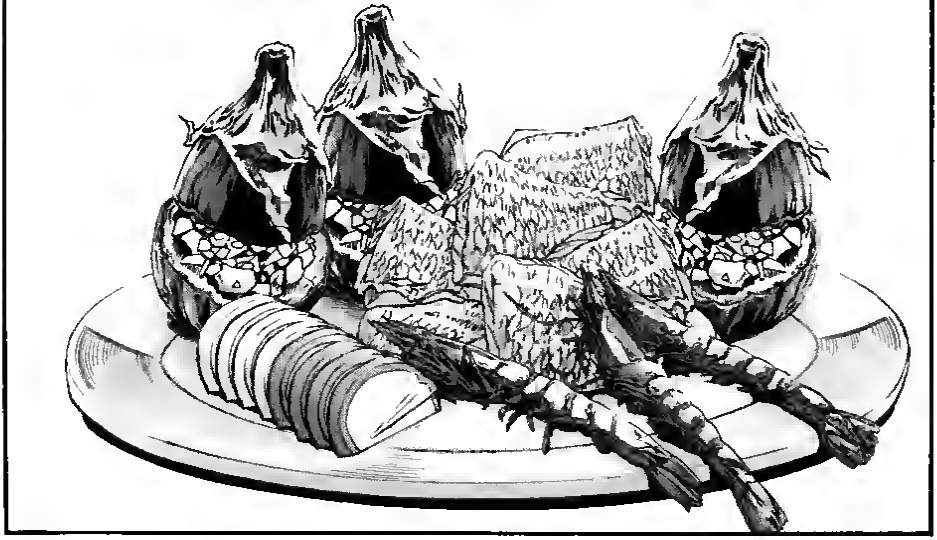
SFX: Chatter Chatter
THEY ARE PUTTING ALL SORTS OF FOODS ON A SINGLE PLATE...
THIS IS VERY UNORTHODOX.


BUT ISN'T THIS COMPLETELY INCORRECT FOR A BANQUET?
IF IT IS LIKE THIS, THEN WE ONLY NEED A SINGLE PLATE FOR THE FULL MEAL....



I CAN TAKE AS MUCH AS I WANT OF THE DISHES I LIKE!
WHAT AN INNOVATIVE PRESENTATION!
WE MUST COMMEND HIDEYOSHI-DONO FOR ORGANIZING SUCH A BOLD BANQUET, BEFITTING OF OUR LORD, WHO ESPOUSES THE MAKING OF A NEW ERA.
OH MY, THIS IS WONDERFUL!
WAIT UNTIL YOU TRY THIS CRANE DOLMA.
IT IS SCRUMPTIOUS!
...AND I HAVE NEVER HAD KAMABOKO THIS TENDER BEFORE...
THIS IS CLEARLY BETTER THAN BEING FORCED TO EAT DISHES WHETHER YOU LIKE THEM OR NOT...
THAT IS TRUE...

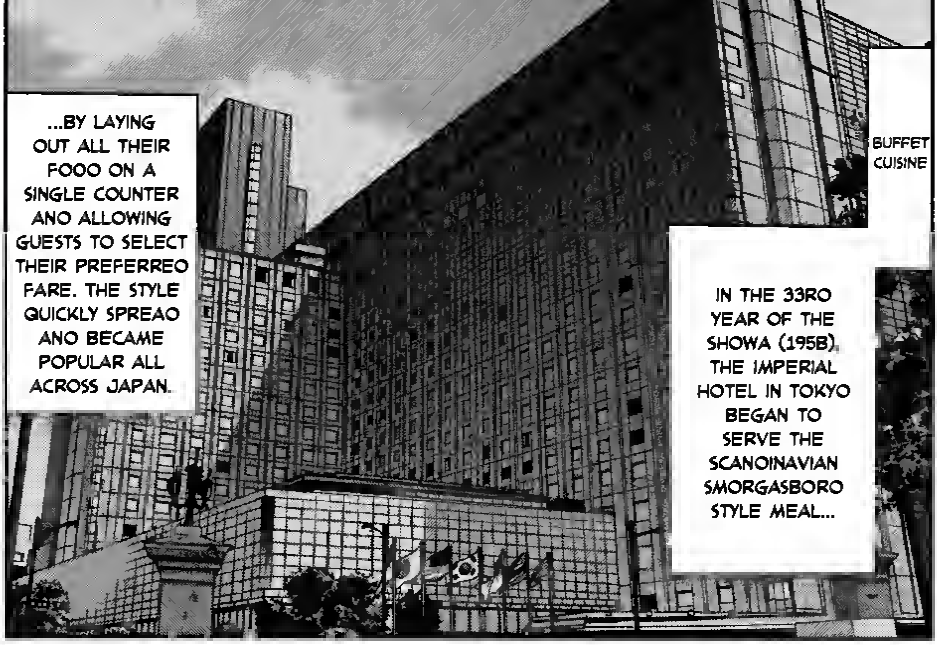
MY LORD, PLEASE!
TODAY, I DECIDED TO HELP KEN.
RAN-MARU...
Hmm...



YES, SIR!
KEN, WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS PRESENTATION?

Hmph!

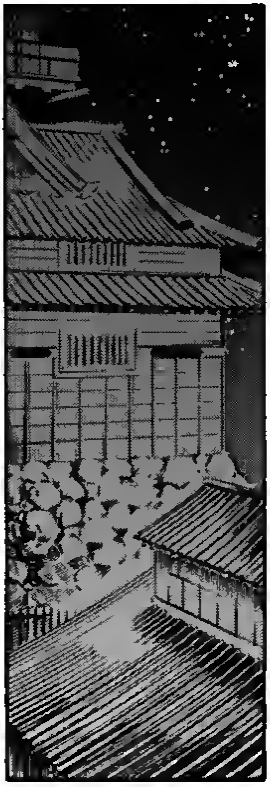
THIS IS CALLED A BUFFET.


...BY LAYING OUT ALL THEIR FOOO ON A SINGLE COUNTER ANO ALLOWING GUESTS TO SELECT THEIR PREFERREO FARE. THE STYLE QUICKLY SPREAO ANO BECAME POPULAR ALL ACROSS JAPAN.
BUFFET CUISINE
IN THE 33RO YEAR OF THE SHOWA (195B), THE IMPERIAL HOTEL IN TOKYO BEGAN TO SERVE THE SCANOINAVIAN SMORGASBORO STYLE MEAL...

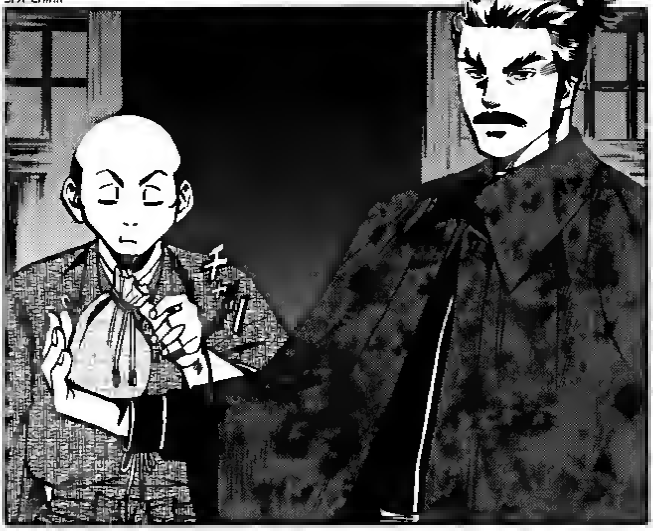
IT'S ONE OF CHEF INOUE'S SPECIAL-TIES.
THIS IS EGGPLANT STUFFED WITH CRANE MEAT BAKED WITH SAKE.
AND WHAT IS THIS CRANE DOLMA?

SFX Chomp
Hmph.

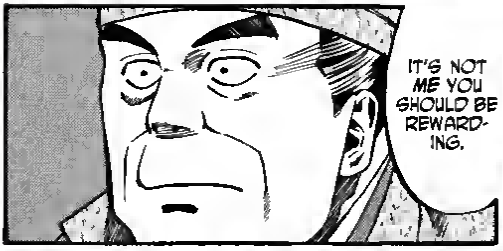
SFX Chatter Chatter
SFX Chatter
SFX Chatter
SFX Wahaha



SFX Chink



SFX Quiver Quiver

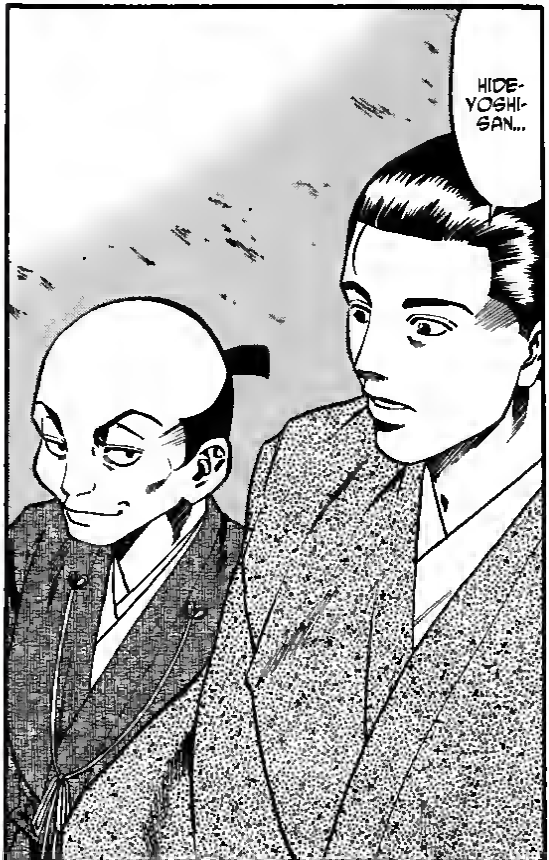


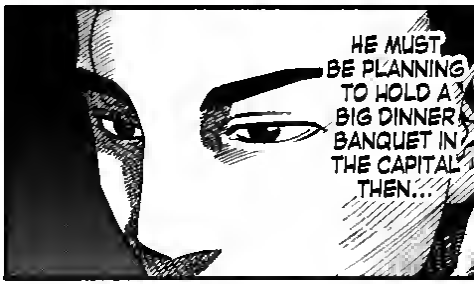
PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THE REWARD TO THEM.
WHAT A QUEER MAN YOU ARE.
SFX Kachink
YOU SAY YOU DO NOT WANT ANY OF IT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
YE-YES, SIR...!
INOUE, DIVIDE THAT AMONGST ALL OF YOU.

I SHALL LET YOU PICK.
IN ADDITION TO YOU, WE WILL NEED A FEW MORE COOKS...

YES, SIR.

KEN...
I SHALL BE HEADING TO THE CAPITAL SOON.


HIDE-YOSHI-SAN...


HE MUST BE PLANNING TO HOLD A BIG DINNER BANQUET IN THE CAPITAL THEN...

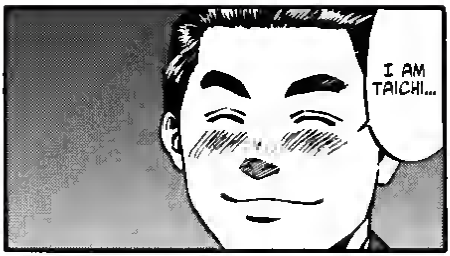
YOU HANDLED INOUE VERY WELL BACK THERE.
YOU ARE EVEN A SKILLED MANIPU-LATOR, IT SEEMS.

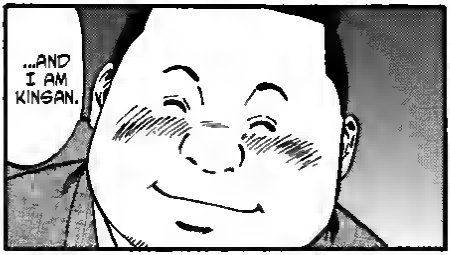
I'M NOT PARTICU-LARLY AIM!--
ボス
SFX Thump
IF YOU ALWAYS GIVE CREDIT FOR YOUR ACCOMP-LISHMENTS TO OTHERS, YOU WON'T SUCCEED.
BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD REALLY JUST KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND KEEP THE REWARD NEXT TIME.
SAVED.
SFX Approach--
YEAH, IT'S NOT THAT.
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SAID HE DID NOT NEED IT, GOT IT?!
WHA-WHAT?! I WON'T GIVE IT BACK!
EXCUSE ME... INOUE-SAN...

HAVING SOMEONE WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE AND COOKING SKILL WOULD BE REASSURING.
WHAT?!
WON'T YOU COME TO THE CAPITAL WITH ME?
Ahem... WELL....
NOW THEN, YOU LOT...! WE ARE GOING DRINKING TONIGHT...
YAY...!
OF COURSE... REASSURING!
IF YOU SAY ALL THAT, THEN I SUPPOSE I WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER IT.

SFX: Wahahaha

SFX: Wahahaha

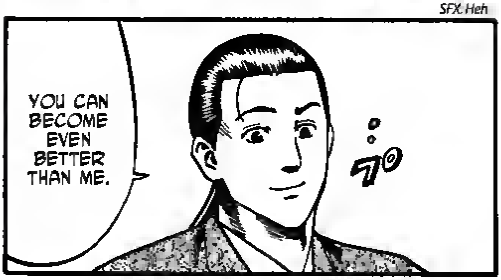

I AM TAICHI...

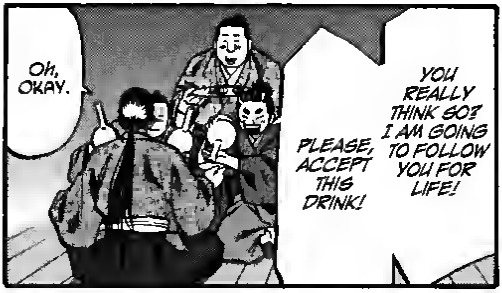

...AND I AM KINSAN.

YOSUKE.

PLEASE TAKE US WITH YOU TO THE CAPITAL TOO...

SFX: Heh

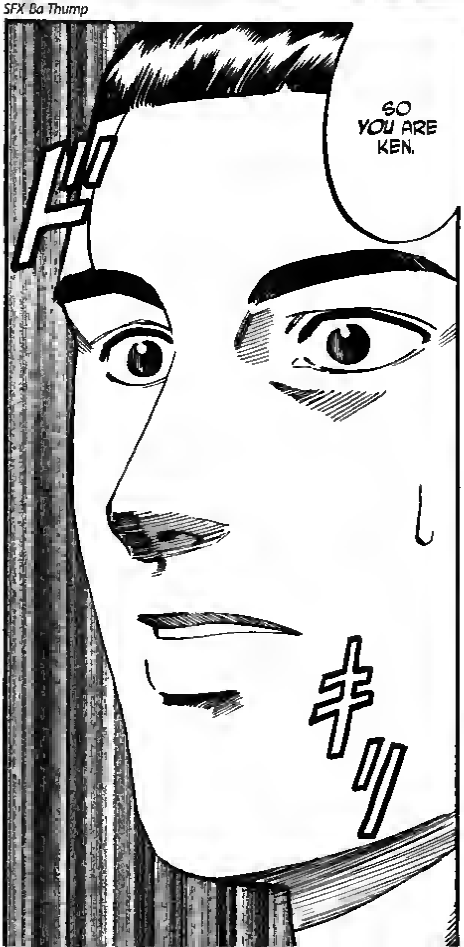

YOU CAN BECOME EVEN BETTER THAN ME.


Oh, OKAY.
PLEASE, ACCEPT THIS DRINK!
YOU REALLY THINK SO? I AM GOING TO FOLLOW YOU FOR LIFE!

DO YOU THINK WE WILL BE ABLE BECOME CHEFS LIKE YOU SOMEDAY?!
ALL OF US REALLY LOOK UP TO YOU, BOSS!

SFX: Rattle
SFX: Snore Snore
THINK I HAD A BIT TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
Ahhhh...
SINCE THEN, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY MORE HEAD-ACHES THOUGH...
WHAT WAS ALL THAT...?

SFX Ba Thump

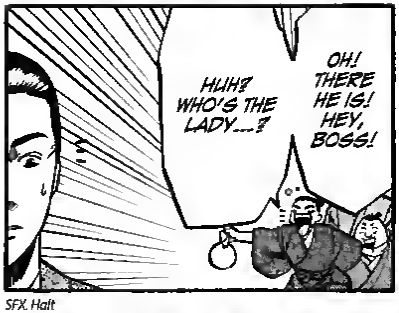


I HAVE BEEN WANTING TO MEET YOU.

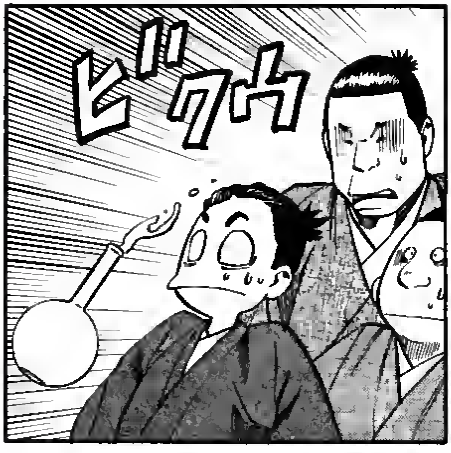
Chapter 15 After the Banquet

WHO'S THIS...?

I HAD REALLY BEEN HOPING TO MEET YOU, KEN.

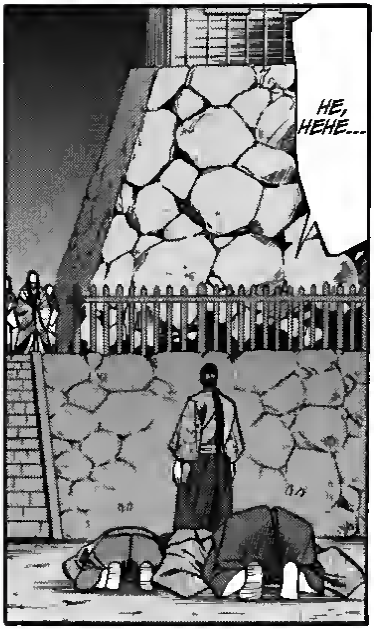

HUH? WHO'S THE LADY...?
OH! THERE HE IS! HEY, BOSS!

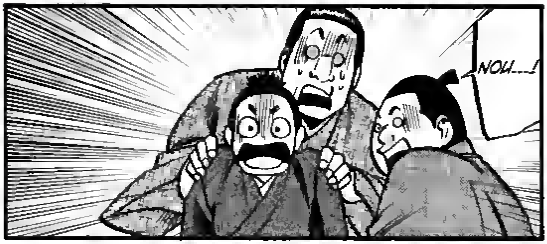
SFX. Halt

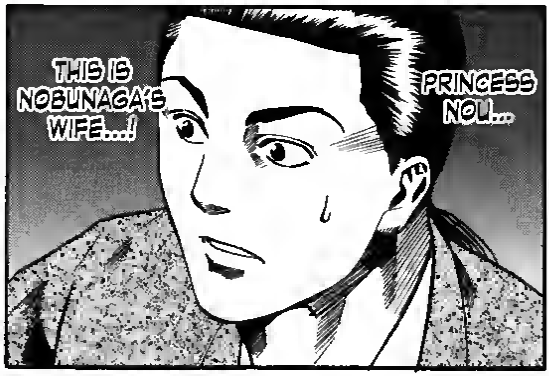

ビクッ

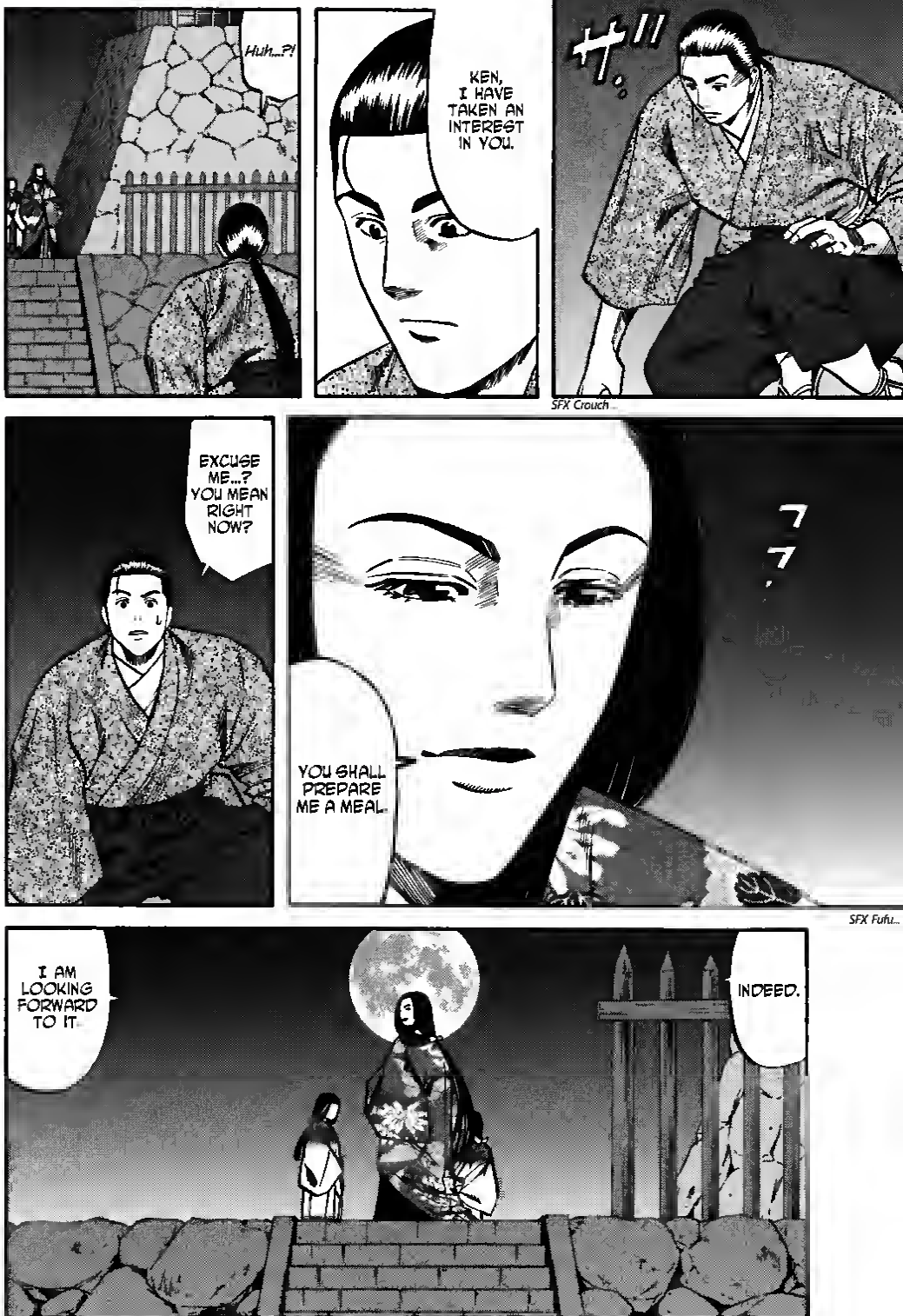
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, UNCOUTH WRETCHES!

YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF PRINCESS NOU-SAMA!


HE, HEHE...

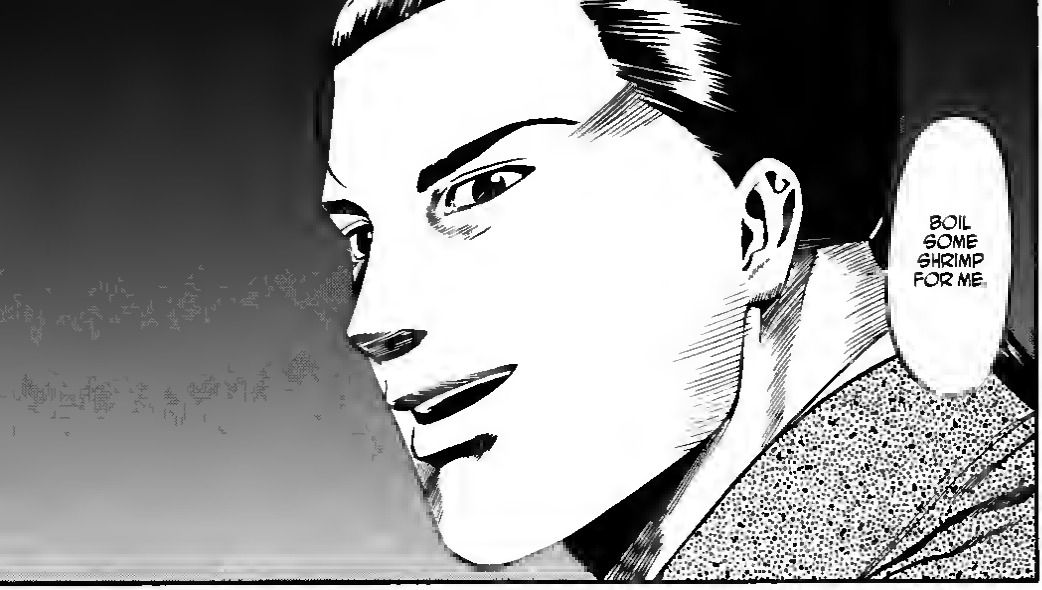

NOU...!

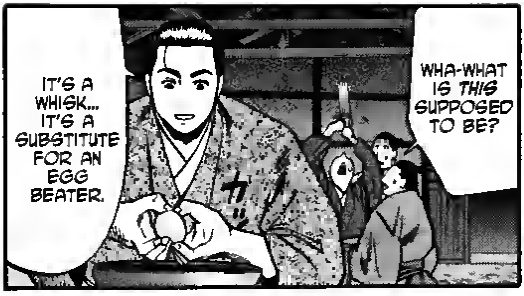

THIS IS NOBUNAGA'S WIFE...!
PRINCESS NOU...

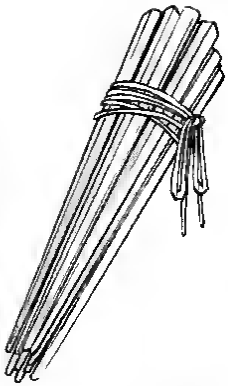

Huh...?!
KEN, I HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN YOU.
SFX Crouch...
EXCUSE ME...? YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW?
YOU SHALL PREPARE ME A MEAL.
SFX Fufu...
I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
INDEED.

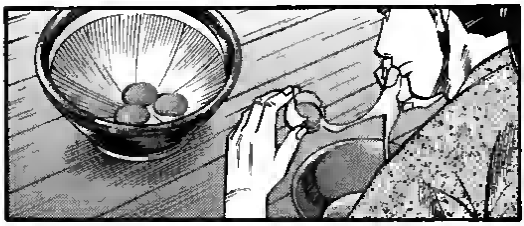
SFX Snore Snore
WE WILL START BY MOVING THE DRUNKS INTO A CORNER!
BOSS! PLEASE LET US HELP!
WE WILL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!
WHAT SHOULD I PREPARE...? IT'D BE GREAT IF I KNEW HER TASTES...
BUT WHAT NOW?

HER KIMONO WAS VERY GLAMOROUS...
SO WHAT DOES SHE LIKE, IN GENERAL...?
...FROM HER COUNTENANCE ON THE YOUNGER SIDE, BUT MAYBE SHE'S ACTUALLY A BIT OLDER...
SHE APPEARS TO BE IN HER 30S...
SINCE SHE DOESN'T DO MUCH STRENUOUS ACTIVITY, SHE'D PROBABLY PREFER FOOD THAT ISN'T SALTY.
GOOD. I KNOW WHAT I'M GONNA MAKE!
EH?
WH..T SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
BOSS! WE HAVE FINISHED TIDYING UP!

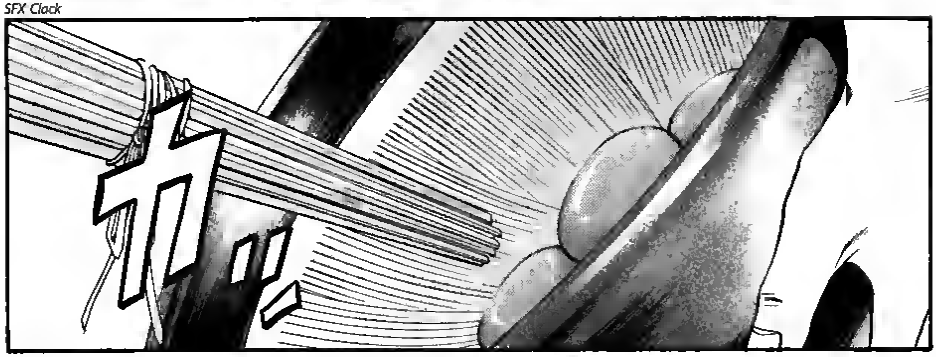

BOIL SOME SHRIMP FOR ME.


WHA-WHAT IS *THIS* SUPPOSED TO BE?
IT'S A WHISK... IT'S A SUBSTITUTE FOR AN EGG BEATER.





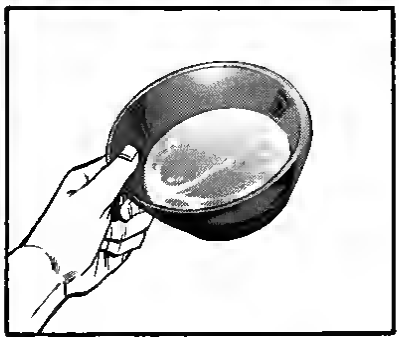
SFX Clack



SFX: Tak Tak Tak Tak Tak

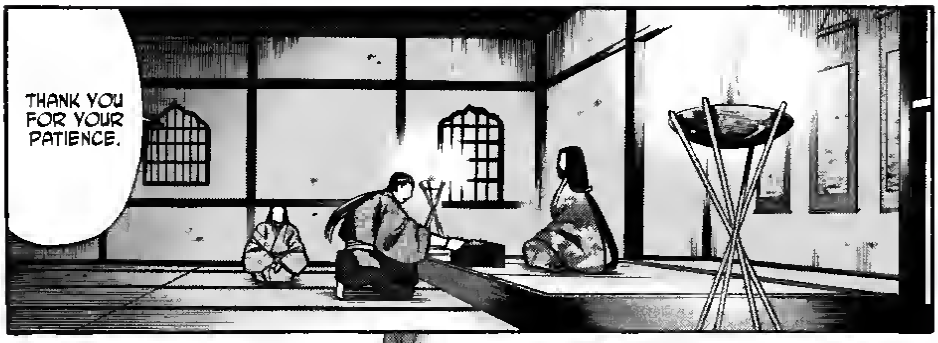
SFX: Tak Tak Tak Tak Tak

SFX: Glow



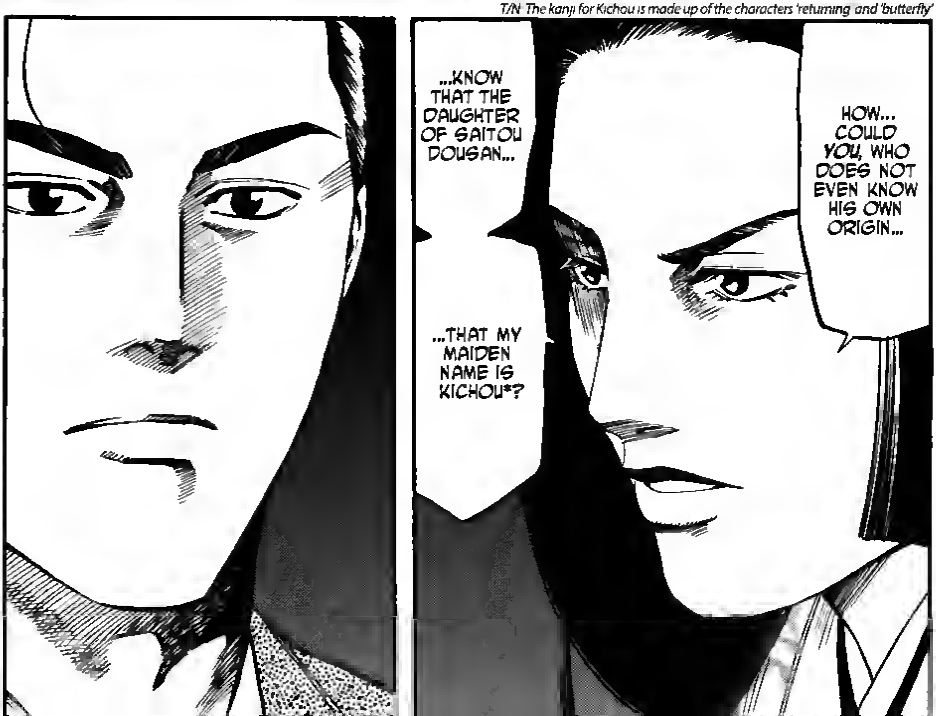
IT IS TURNING WHITE!!
SFX Tak Tak
SFX Tak Tak
GIMME SOME OF THE BROTH.
GOOD...
BOSS! I HAVE FINISHED BOILING THE SHRIMP!
...AND NOW I'LL THIN IT WITH THE SHRIMP BROTH BOILED WITH VINEGAR.
I BEAT THESE EGG YOLKS AND EMULSIFIED THEM WITH DUCK FAT...
THE BROTH... YOU SAY?

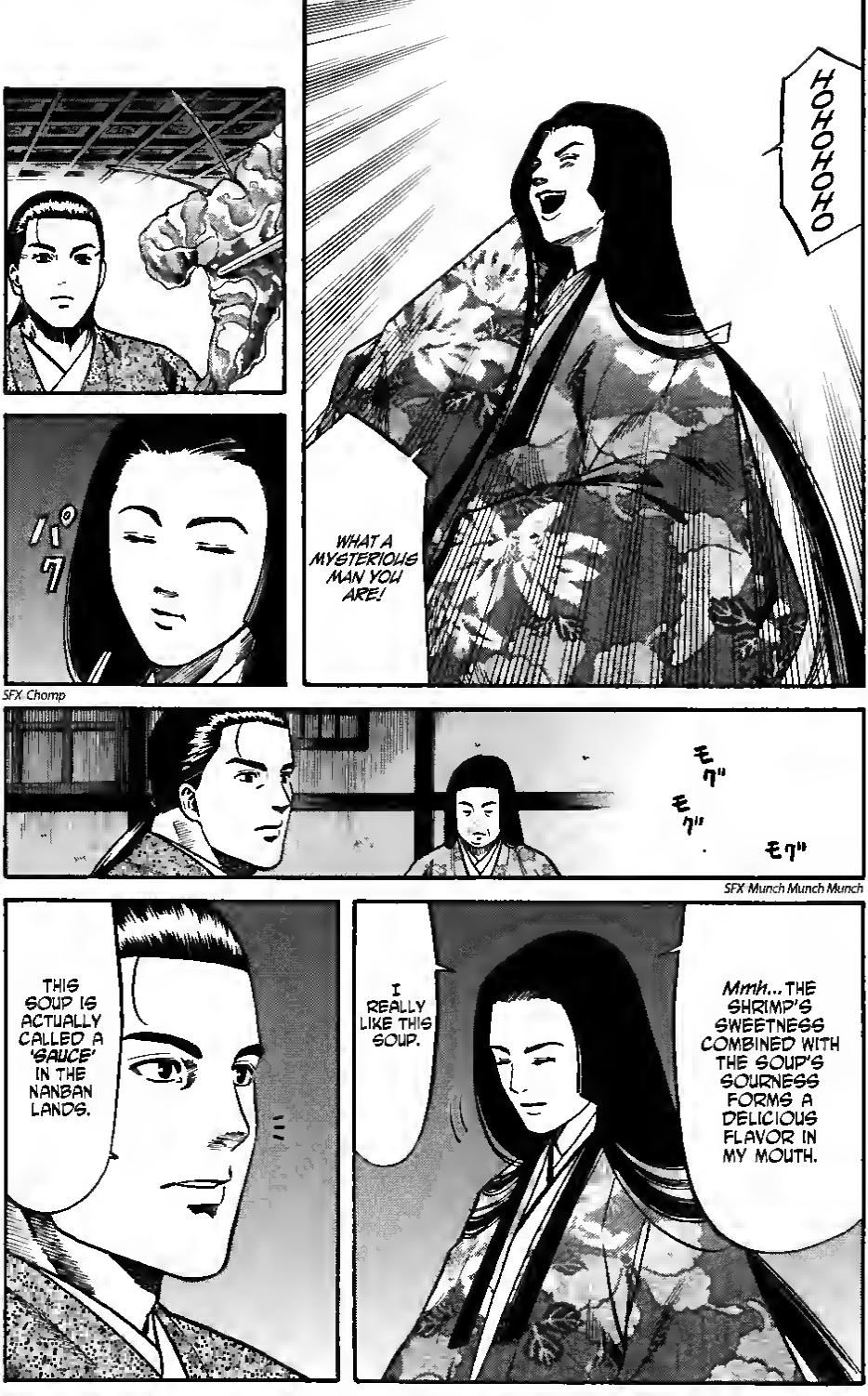
A SABAYON SAUCE.
AND WE HAVE A MAYONNAISE STYLE SUSPENSION...
...BUT IT SHOULD STILL WORK LIKE THIS.
IT'D TASTE EVEN BETTER WITH BUTTER...
SABA-WHAT?

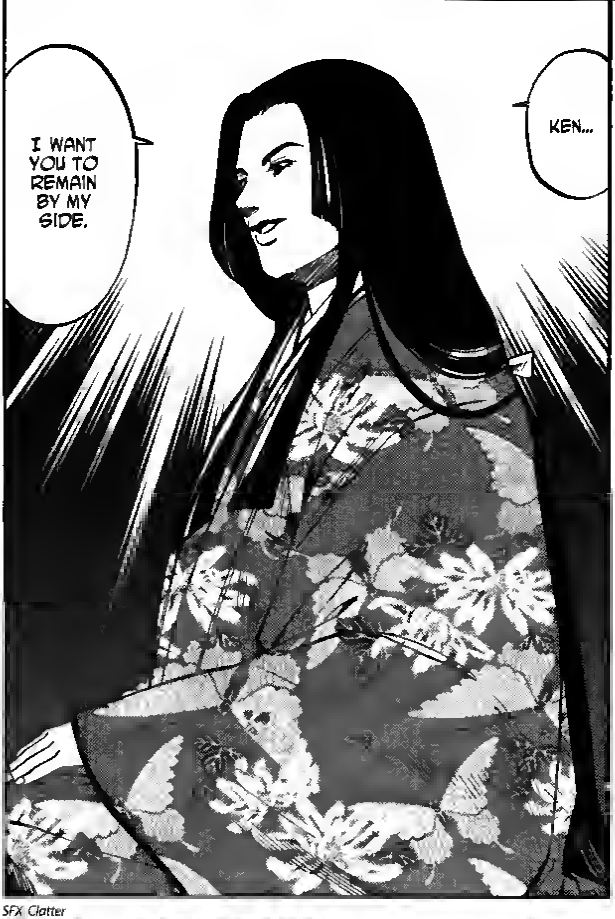

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

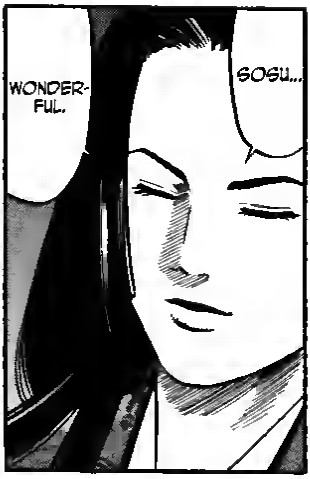
I PRESENT SLICED, BOILED SHRIMP, SHAPED LIKE BUTTERFLIES, IN A SABAYON SAUCE.

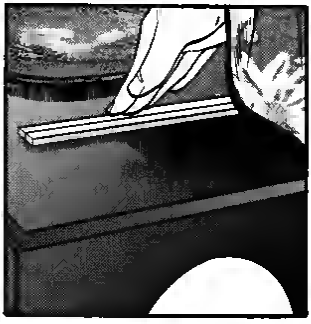
T/N: The kanji for Kichou is made up of the characters 'returning' and 'butterfly'




HOHOHOHO
WHAT A MYSTERIOUS MAN YOU ARE!
パク
SFX Chomp
モグ"
モグ"
モグ"
SFX Munch Munch Munch
THIS SOUP IS ACTUALLY CALLED A 'SAUCE' IN THE NANBAN LANDS.
I REALLY LIKE THIS SOUP.
Mmh... THE SHRIMP'S SWEETNESS COMBINED WITH THE SOUP'S SOURNESS FORMS A DELICIOUS FLAVOR IN MY MOUTH.



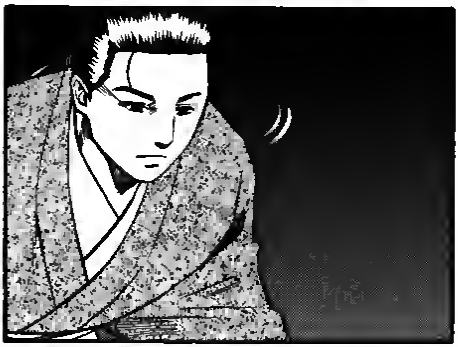




SFX: Clatter

MY-MY LORD...
YOU HAVE FALLEN FOR KEN, TOO?
YES...
AS EXPECTED OF YOU MY LORD HUSBAND.
...FOR KEN'S FOOD.

SFX Slide
スス



WHAT A POPULAR GUY.

SFX Smp

KEN, WE SHALL MOBILIZE WHEN THE YEAR BEGINS.
DO NOT SLACK IN THE PREPARATIONS.

SFX Slide
ス
YES, SIR.
スス
ス
SFX Slide Slide Slide
パタ
ン
SFX Thud
AND HER SENSE OF TASTE SEEMS TO BE KEENER THAN AVERAGE...
SHE SEEMS TO BE A VERY SENSITIVE PERSON.
PRINCESS NOU UNLIKE NOBUNAGA, SHE EATS WHILE SLOWLY SAVORING HER FOOD.

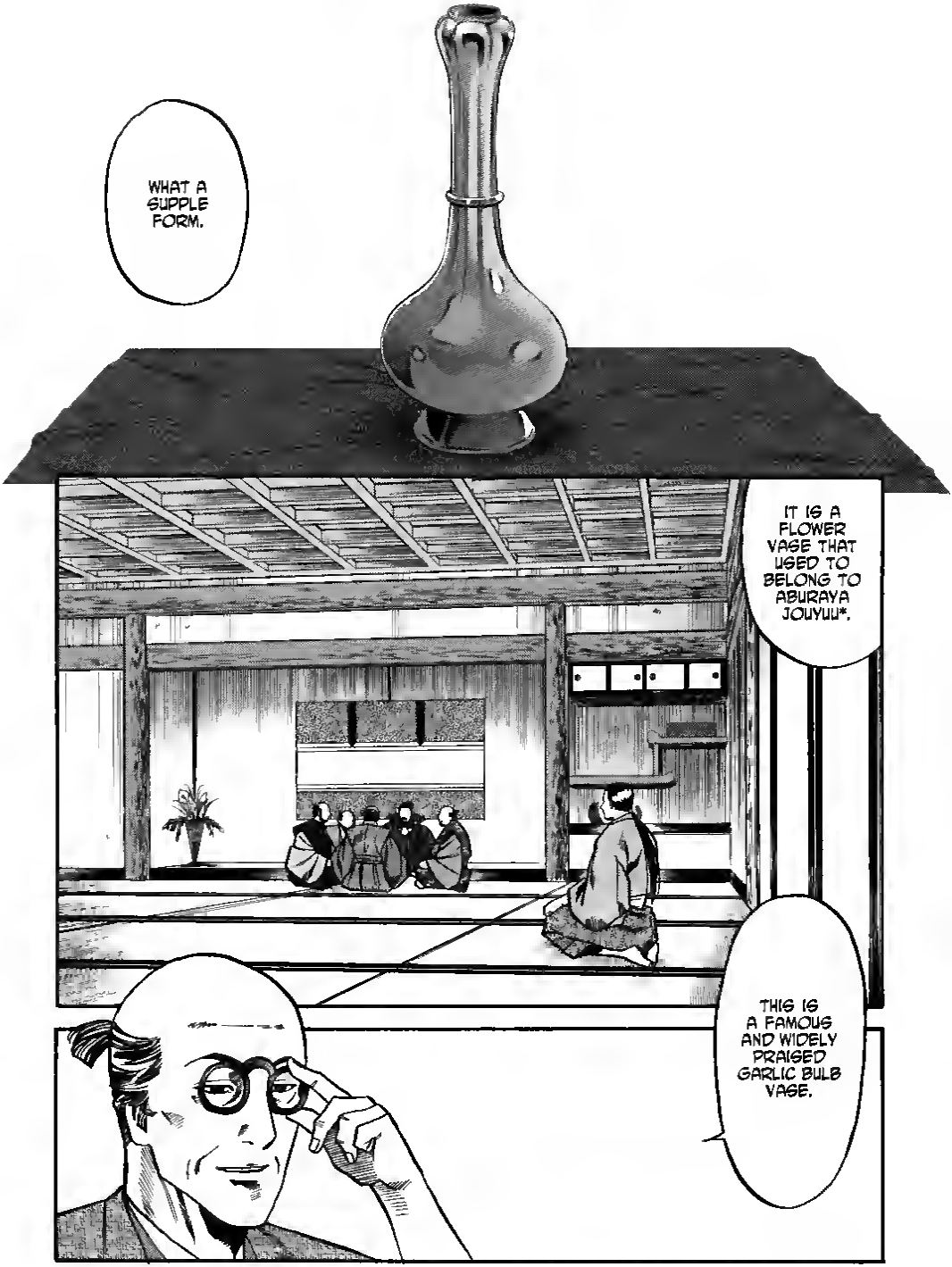
KYOTO – NIJOU CASTLE
23RD OF JANUARY
"THE SHOGUN CEDES ALL MATTERS OF THE STATE TO NOBUNAGA'S ADMINISTRATION"...?!
"THE SHOGUN WILL NO LONGER SEND OFFICIAL LETTERS TO ANY OF THE REGIONAL LORDS WITHOUT NOBUNAGA'S EXPLICIT APPROVAL"...?
NOBUNAGA SENT ASHIKAGA YOSHIAKI FIVE RULES IN WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS 'NOBUNAGA'S SEALED LETTER'.
WITH THIS KIND OF EDICT, WHO EXACTLY IS THE SHOGUN HERE?!
THE LETTER WAS INTENDED TO STRONGLY CURTAIL YOSHIAKI'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

NOBU-
NAGA
ENTER-
ED THE
CAPITAL.
THUS, ON
FEBRUARY
30TH, IN THE
FIRST YEAR OF
THE GENKI
(1570)...

WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.
ARE WE STAYING HERE TONIGHT?
WHAT A LARGE MANSION!! I WONDER WHOSE IT IS!..?
...MITSU-HIDE.
VERY GOOD.
IS THE SHOGUN BEHAVING LIKE AN ADULT...?
AKECHI MITSU-HIDE?!
MITSU... HIDE...

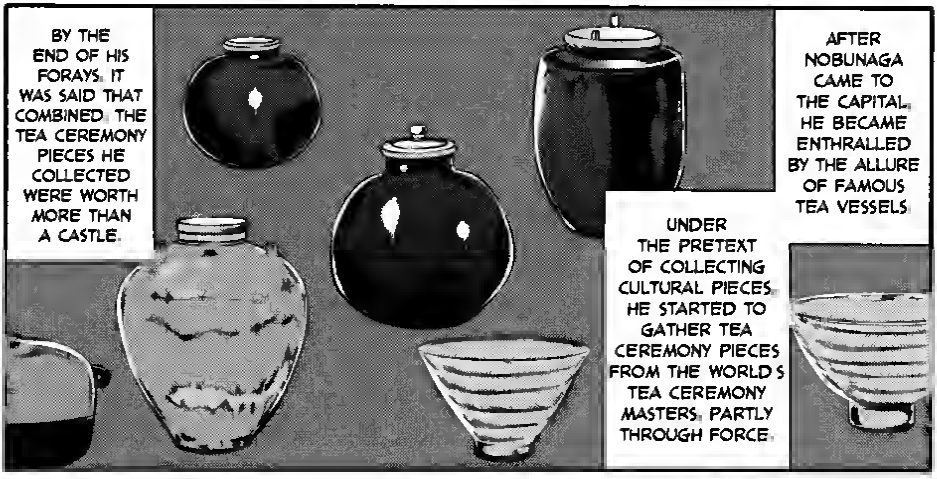
Chapter 16 At Nijou Castle

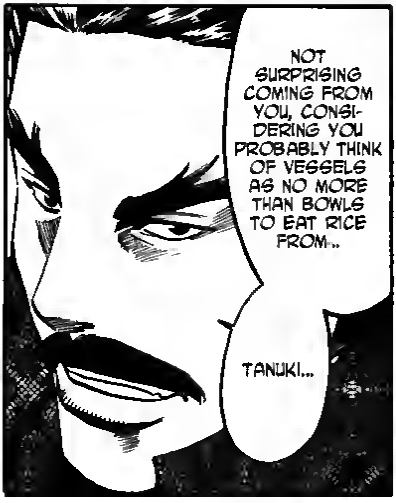
Chapter 16 At Nijo Castle



*T/N Aburaya Jouyuu was a renowned tea ceremony master in the Sengoku period

AND FROM TODAY ON, IT IS MINE.


BY THE END OF HIS FORAYS, IT WAS SAID THAT COMBINED THE TEA CEREMONY PIECES HE COLLECTED WERE WORTH MORE THAN A CASTLE.
AFTER NOBUNAGA CAME TO THE CAPITAL, HE BECAME ENTHRALLED BY THE ALLURE OF FAMOUS TEA VESSELS.
UNDER THE PRETEXT OF COLLECTING CULTURAL PIECES, HE STARTED TO GATHER TEA CEREMONY PIECES FROM THE WORLD'S TEA CEREMONY MASTERS, PARTLY THROUGH FORCE.

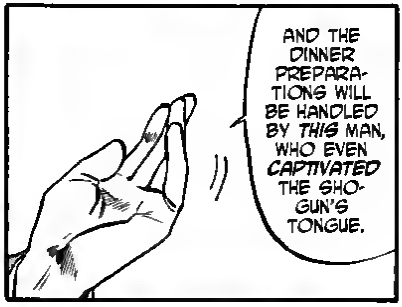

NOT SURPRISING COMING FROM YOU, CONSIDERING YOU PROBABLY THINK OF VESSELS AS NO MORE THAN BOWLS TO EAT RICE FROM...
TANUKI...

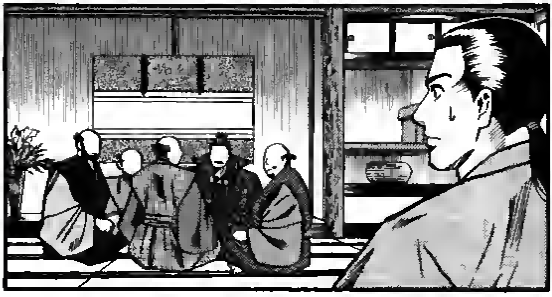
THIS RARE VESSEL HUNTING OF YOURS...
...I AM SURPRISED YOU HAVE NOT GROWN TIRED OF IT.

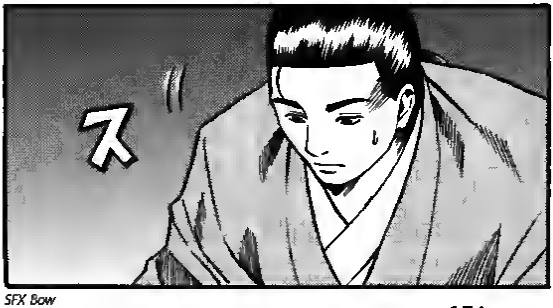
WHO IS THIS?
HE SPEAKS SO BOLDLY EVEN WITH NOBUNAGA...
TANUKI... Tehehe...
WELL, I GUESS IT IS BETTER THAN BEING CALLED A SARU.
IEYASU-DONO! SARU IS WAY BETTER THAN TANUKI!
TOKUGAWA IEYASU!
THE FIRST SHOGUN OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE...

THE HEAD CHEF, KEN.

IEYASU-DONO, WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN OUR CELEBRATIONS TOMORROW FOR THE COMPLETION OF NIJOU CASTLE.


AND THE DINNER PREPARA-TIONS WILL BE HANDLED BY *THIS* MAN, WHO EVEN *CAPTIVATED* THE SHO-GUN'S TONGUE.

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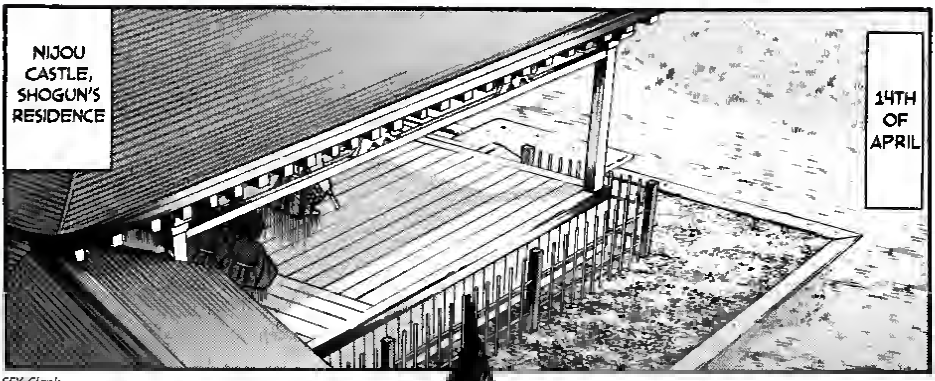
SO THIS IS THE MAN I HAVE HEARD ABOUT...
Oh...

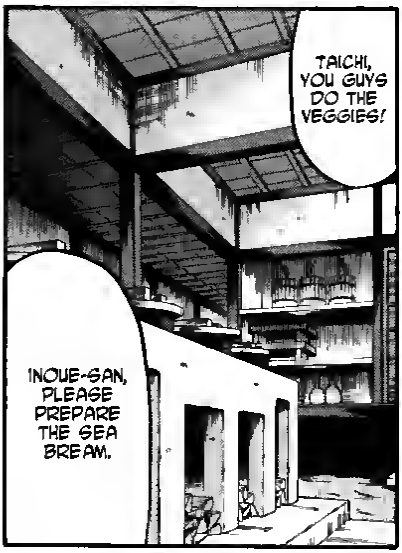
SFX Bow

ODA NOBUNAGA
TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI
TOKUGAWA IEYASU
AKECHI MITSUHIDE
MORI YOSHINARI
WHY AM I IN THIS PICTURE...?
THEY'RE ALL WARRING STATES PERIOD LORDS AND GENERALS WHOSE NAMES REVERBERATE THROUGHOUT LATER ERAS...



SFX Clank

SFX Clock Clock Clock



SFX Clank

トトト
SFX. Chop Chop Chop
キリ
SFX Slice
スパ
SFX Tighten
WOW, AS EXPECTED OF ODA-DONO'S CHEFS...
THEY LOOK VERY SKILLED.
BUT DID YOU HEAR THAT HIS HEAD CHEF IS APPARENTLY SOME VAGABOND HE PICKED OFF THE STREET SOMEPLACE? THEY DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM...
HOW PITIABLE.
AND SEE THAT MAN OVER THERE? APPARENTLY, THE TITLE OF HEAD CHEF WAS TAKEN FROM HIM.
Ouch, I SURE WOULD NOT WANT TO BE A CHEF UNDER ODA THEN.
ブル
ブル
SFX Tremble Tremble

WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU BRING ME HERE?!
DAMN YOU, KEN!
HUMILIATING ME LIKE THIS...

NOW THAT WAS A WONDERFUL NOH PERFORMANCE!
AND THIS NEW RESIDENCE IS ALSO A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE.
ALL OF THIS IS POSSIBLE THANKS TO YOU, ODA-DONO, WHO TOOK CHARGE OF BUILDING THIS NIJOU CASTLE.

YOU HONOR ME GREATLY...
ODA-DONO, YOU SHOULD ACCEPT A HIGHER COURT POSITION COMMENSURATE WITH YOUR STATUS.
...BUT I AM AFRAID I WILL HAVE TO DECLINE.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, I WOULD BE PLEASED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE EMPEROR'S COURT ON YOUR BEHALF.
HOW RUDE THIS MAN IS!
UGH... EVEN THOUGH I AM GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO PLEASE HIM...

THAT IS TRUE, ISN'T IT...?

CHANGING SUBJECTS, I DO NOT SEE ASAKURA YOSHIKAGE-DONO HERE TONIGHT.
I SENT MORE THAN ONE ENVOY TO NOTIFY HIM TO COME TO THE CAPITAL TO PAY HIS RESPECTS TO THE SHOGUN.

MITSU-HIDE...
YOU ONCE WORKED UNDER ASAKURA-DONO...
HAVE YOU HEARD ANY WORD?

NO, I WAS UNAWARE OF THIS.

スゥ。。

SFX Hiss..

Eh... Uh...
NO... I...
SFX Chatter
SHOGUN-DONO, HAVE YOU IGNORED MY COMMANDS AND SENT SECRET LETTERS TO ASAKURA-DONO WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE?
SFX Stand
M-MY LORD!
WHILE ACTING LIKE AN ALLY TO NOBUNAGA IN PERSON...
...YOSHIAKI WAS ACTUALLY PLANNING AN ATTACK ON NOBU-NAGA FROM MULTIPLE SIDES.
HE HAD HIT THE BULL'S EYE.

CALL KEN!
KEN!
EEH?!
HE WANTS US TO REDO EVERYTHING DIFFERENTLY ?!
THIS IS TOTALLY UNREASONABLE.
NO WAY... WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME...
YEAH, ACCORDING TO THE LORD'S INSTRUCTIONS.
Huh?
IT'S YOUR TURN, INOUE-SAN...

IS THAT THE REASON YOU BROUGHT ME?!
AH!
I'VE HEARD YOU HAVE VERY EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ALL THE REGIONAL FOODS AND SPECIALTIES.
NO, IT'S JUST THAT I THINK YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS ERA'S CUISINE THAN I DO...
I'LL THINK OF A WAY TO PREPARE THEM IN TIME!
PLEASE TEACH ME ABOUT THESE REGIONAL SPECIAL-TIES!
THIS ERA...?
SFX Bow
IN THAT CASE...
YOU BOYS START BOILING SOME WATER!
RIGHT AWAY!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
SFX Chatter
AL.. RIGHT..
ガヤ..

A CRAB COCKTAIL--A FLASH SMOKED MACKEREL IN PLUM SAUCE.
ザワ
SFX Murmur
I SEE... SO THIS IS THE REASON ODA-DONO BROUGHT HIM ALONG, EVEN TO THE CAPITAL.
AND TO CAPTURE ODA-DONO'S INTENTIONS SO PERFECTLY.
...WHAT A CHEF...
TO PREPARE SUCH A THING IN SO SHORT A PERIOD OF TIME!..

UH... LET'S SEE...
...
BUT I HAVE NO IDEA!
SINCE HE WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF HAVING EVERY-THING REDONE, THIS FOOD MUST HAVE SOME MESSAGE FROM THE LORD HIDDEN IN IT...
...?
モグ
モグ
モグ
SFX Munch Munch Munch
モグ
モグ
SFX Chew Chew
I GUESS THERE IS NO MORE THAT CAN BE DONE.
SO THIS MEANS HE WILL BE RESPONDING IN KIND TO ASAKURA-DONO...

Hmm, ECHIZEN'S CRAB AND MACKEREL SPECIALTIES ARE CERTAINLY DELICIOUS, ARE THEY NOT?
AH!

SFX: Clatter

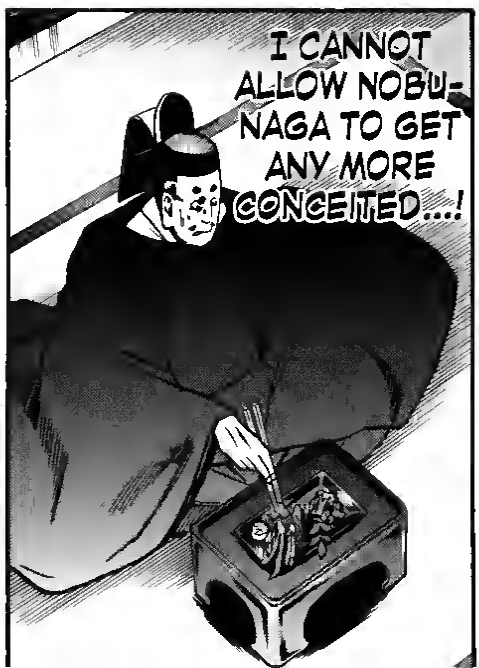
THAT IS IT... ECHI-ZEN...
ASA-KURA!
AA-AAH!
ガラガラ

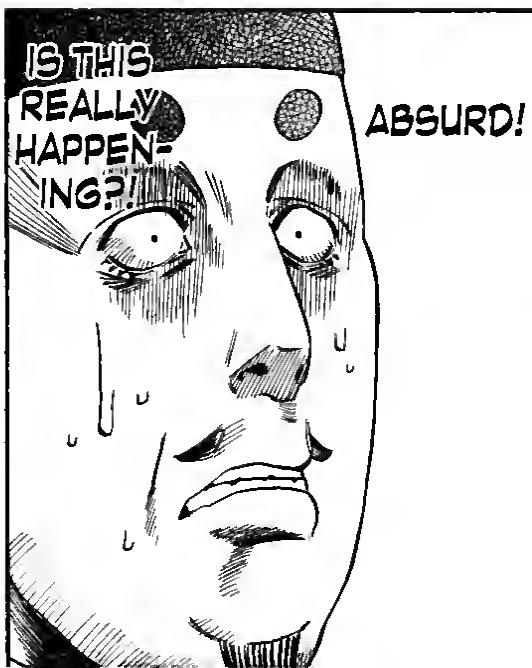
IN OTHER WORDS, THE LORD HAS RESOLVED TO SUBDUE THE ASAKURAS!
TO DEVOUR ECHIZEN ...

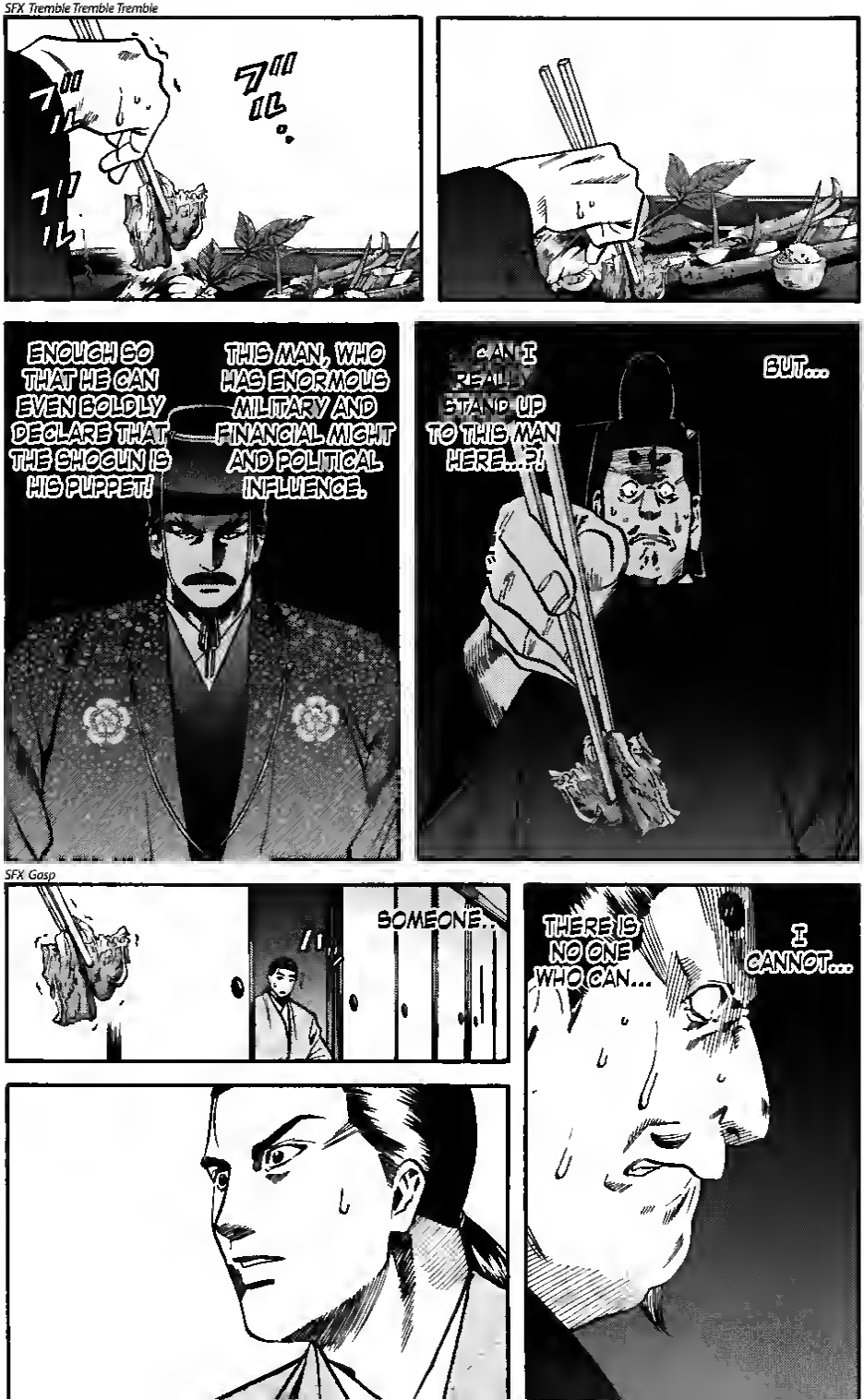
SFX: Murmur Murmur
ガヤ
ガヤ

SFX: Murmur
ガヤ
SO IF THE SHOGUN EATS THIS IN FRONT OF US ALL...
THAT MEANS.

...TO THE SUBJUGATION OF ASAKURA!
...THAT HE IS GIVING HIS CONSENT...


I CANNOT ALLOW NOBUNAGA TO GET ANY MORE CONCEITED...!


IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING?!
ABSURD!


SFX Tremble Tremble Tremble
ENOUGH SO THAT HE CAN EVEN BOLDLY DECLARE THAT THE SHOGUN IS HIS PUPPET!
THIS MAN, WHO HAS ENORMOUS MILITARY AND FINANCIAL MIGHT AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE.
CAN I REALLY STAND UP TO THIS MAN HERE...?!
BUT...
SFX Gasp
SOMEONE...
THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN...
I CANNOT...

...PLEASE KILL THIS MAN...!
PLEASE, SOMEONE, ANYONE...
IT IS TIME TO ATTACK ASAKURA.
THANK YOU FOR GIVING US YOUR APPROVAL.

Food from the Warring States Period

Column

Text and recipe by Nishimura Mitsuru

In 1804, amidst constant battles, Napoleon Bonaparte, believing that good food was a requirement in order to support his soldiers' morale and preserve his military's strength, started collecting ideas from all over on how to preserve food. The man who won the first place prize of 1200 francs was Nicola Appert. This man proposed the idea of sealing food in a glass bottle—after boiling the bottle to disinfect it and removing all the air—to prevent rot. Thanks to his proposal, it became possible to eat fresher and more nutritious food on the battlefield. Now let's skip ahead to 1870. A great predecessor of Ken's, the chef who laid the foundations of modern French cuisine, Auguste Escoffier, was called up for duty as a chef for the 2nd regiment and the forward headquarters of the army's general. On September 2nd, at the fortress of Saint Julien on Saint Pierre island, under bombardment that fell like rain from Prussian cannons, Escoffier prepared the following meal: appetizer, "soft-boiled eggs in the shell", hors d'oeuvres 2, "calf liver aux fines herbes", main course, "cold meats", cheese, "Gruyère". Escoffier called this a 'simple lunch menu'. Simple?!

"Whatever situation you're in, wherever you may be, you must make sure to have a full course meal!" This quote let's us properly appreciate the French passion for and attachment to food. Hats off!

Recipe

Seafood Risotto

1. Stir fry thinly sliced onion, dried shrimp, and white sesame in a pan.
2. Then, add rice (without washing), and stir fry carefully to avoid the rice breaking up from cooking.
3. Fill with water until it covers.
4. When the rice is mostly cooked, add clams, squid, and octopus, then stir slowly while continuing to boil.
   Add salt or shredded umeboshi to taste.
5. Make sure to add a small amount of water if the liquid completely evaporates, and when the rice has an al dente consistency, it's ready to serve.

T/N: Nishimura-sensei lists his historical sources for the manga at the bottom of the page, but as you're reading a scanlation and thus are unlikely to delve into Japanese Warring States Period history books, I took the liberty of omitting this